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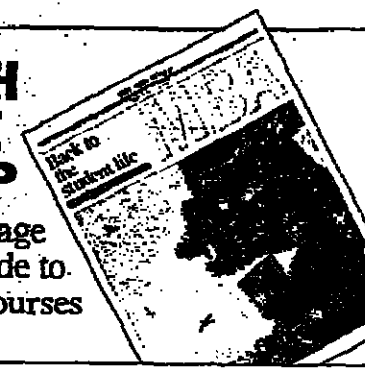
FRIDAY MAY 9 1997

KIDS GO FREE TO THE PLANETARIUM
Token 1
PAGE 39



PATH TO THE TOP
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SCHOOL RAPE
How safe are our primaries?
PAGE 5

TOMORROW
SEAN BEAN TURNS ON THE LIGHT
The new star of *Anna Karenina*
MAGAZINE

Formality ends with 'call me Tony'

Holidays cut as MPs face 22-Bill session

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR cast aside tradition and formality and demanded discipline and hard work yesterday as the first Labour Cabinet meeting for 18 years approved an all-action programme of 22 Bills to become law in a marathon parliamentary session.

The measures, which include two education Bills to drive up standards and reduce class sizes, an attack on crime and a shake-up of the health service, as well as the radical plan to establish a Scottish parliament, were given the go-ahead at a "serious and brisk" two-hour gathering.

The session will start on Wednesday and go through to the autumn of 1998, as Labour acts straightaway to fulfil many of the key pledges of its manifesto.

Mr Blair told his colleagues to "call me Tony" as he announced that the centuries-old tradition of ministers addressing one another by their titles in Cabinet was to be dropped. Ministers will use their Christian names as they debate in private.

The Prime Minister then gave them a lecture on what he required of them, which some ministers disclosed was even sterner than the remarks he had used to Labour MPs the previous day. He said that Labour's key pledges and his Contract with Britain were at the heart of the election campaign and must be at the heart of the programme for government. "We are here to work, not enjoy the trappings of power. We need discipline, unity and co-ordination." He then added: "There is hope and optimism out there, but there is a lot of hard work to be done in here."

Then they agreed, as Gordon Brown had promised in February, to forgo their recommended pay rises for this year. Mr Blair will not take the £41,443 that would have taken his salary up to £143,860, and Cabinet ministers will not take the £16,009 that would have put their salary up to £103,860. However, they have all received big increases from their wages of Opposition and Downing Street made plain that their sacrifice was only for the year.

In keeping with the furious pace of the early days of the Blair Government, it emerged that parliamentary recesses are to be shorter, with the Whitsun break later this month expected to be no more than a couple of days.

Education, Mr Blair's number one priority during the election, is the centrepiece of one of the most ambitious Queen's speeches to come forward in recent years.

Apart from the 22 Bills there will be a White Paper foreshadowing early legislation — possibly in the coming session — to introduce freedom of information. It appears likely, too, that there will be an early Bill to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers.

The first education Bill will sweep away the assisted places scheme, which funds private education for brighter children, to raise £40 million to be spent on cutting class sizes for five, six and seven year olds. The second is regarded by Mr Blair as the "most far-reaching attack on under-achievement in schools" that has ever been undertaken. This will include a new General Teaching Council to raise standards of teachers. There will also be Bills to hold referendums this autumn on setting up a Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly; take 250,000 young people off benefit and into work, and introduce a windfall tax on the privatised utilities; and end the internal market in the NHS.

Among other measures are the introduction of fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders; bringing in a national minimum wage through establishing a Low Pay Commission; and a cut in VAT on fuel to 5 per cent through the Budget.

Speaking in Downing Street after the meeting, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said he was "very proud" of the legislative package. "I am looking forward to implementing that programme and showing that a different government can make a difference. And that is what our Queen's Speech will reflect."

THE MAIN BILLS

- **Education: smaller classes, standards up**
- **Referendum: Scottish and Welsh devolution**
- **Finance: windfall tax, reducing VAT on fuel**
- **Employment: national minimum wage**
- **Crime: punishing young offenders**
- **Health: to abolish the NHS internal market**

Leading article, page 20

PETER NICHOLLS

Members of the Oxford University "dance sport" team yesterday as they practised their steps for tomorrow's Varsity match with Cambridge

Oxford women get blue at the Varsity ball

By Ruth Gledhill

WOMEN ballroom dancers from Oxford University will for the first time be eligible for a full blue when they quickstep on to the floor in the annual Varsity match against Cambridge tomorrow.

Following Olympic recognition for ballroom dancing, the women's blues committee at Oxford has decided to upgrade the sport from half-blue to full-blue status.

But for the gents from Oxford who partner them across all four dances of waltz, quickstep, cha-cha-cha, and jive on the sprung floor at the spacious Kelsey Kerridge sports hall in Cambridge, only a half-blue will be up for grabs. And although the Cambridge ladies will qualify for a half-blue, for the men at Cambridge there will be no blues at all.

This is despite the fact that in dancing, although men and women must be equally fit, the men have the harder job. The onus is on them to set the pace, lead their partner and read the floor properly to avoid collisions.

In the world of ballroom dancing, the Varsity match is as hotly debated as the boat race. Cambridge usually emerge the victor, winning 16 matches so far to Oxford's nine. But the possibility of a full blue for the Oxford dancers could give them the competitive edge this year.

Matthew Buck, of the Oxford team, said: "The Varsity match is of enhanced importance this year as a full blue will be up for grabs for the first time. We have several champions on our team. Although we are definitely the underdogs, we are hopeful of pulling off a surprise result."

Nicola King, 20, a top orienteer who is president of the Oxford blues committee, said the committee had upgraded ballroom dancing at its latest meeting because of changes in the sport.

She said: "Ballroom dancing is not just something that couples do at weddings any more. The emphasis has changed. Ballroom dancing has become dance sport. They put a lot of time, money and commitment into it. It is one of the largest clubs within the university."

There are 800 ballroom dancers at Oxford alone, making it the third largest university club. Ballroom dancing is one of the most popular student activities at both universities.

Senior Tory's death prompts early poll

By our Political Editor

A SENIOR Conservative MP died yesterday, less than a week after clinging on to his London seat by 724 votes.

The death of Sir Michael Shersby, MP for Uxbridge, at the aged of 64 will mean one of the earliest by-elections of any Parliament and will prompt a wave of interest from the scores of former Conservative MPs swept away in last week's landslide.

It stunned Sir Michael's colleagues. He was being talked of as a likely deputy Speaker in recognition of his long and distinguished Commons service.

He was thought to have died of a heart attack and there was inevitable speculation that the strain of the election might have been a factor.

Early indications yesterday were that none of the "big names" who lost their seats last week, such as Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Portillo, would be encouraged to apply for the Conservative nomination in the seat.

However, Tory sources said that a former backbench MP or junior minister might stand a much better chance. One name being mentioned yesterday was Sebastian Coe, who lost the marginal Falmouth and Camborne seat to Labour. The Tories have not won a by-election since 1989.

Obituary, page 23

"Well, you don't seem very upset about missing your holidays"

Heart operation for Heseltine

Michael Heseltine, 64, the former Deputy Prime Minister, underwent a heart operation five days after being admitted to the private Harley Street Clinic in London suffering from chest pains.

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative party chairman, said Mr Heseltine was resting after an angioplasty operation to expand a coronary artery. The operation involves threading a "balloon" into the artery and inflating it.

Triplet secret

Anthony and Julie Cohn, parents of surrogate triplets, spoke of their joy and said they had had to keep their "blessings from God" a secret from anyone other than very close family and trusted friends in the months leading up to the birth .... Page 7

BCCI fraud man jailed for 14 years

By George Sivell

ABBAS GOKAL, 61, the former shipping magnate, was jailed for 14 years for his role in sinking the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in what is believed to be the world's biggest fraud.

The sentence, too, is the most severe of its kind handed down by a British court. It follows Gokal's conviction last month on charges of conspiracy to account falsely and conspiracy to defraud. His trial lasted six months.

Gokal, former chairman of the Gulf Group, siphoned $1.2 billion (£750 million) from BCCI through offshore companies, threatening ruin for thousands of bank depositors, including the Western Isles council in Scotland. His conviction makes him Britain's biggest fraudster in a case that may never be matched in scope and complexity.

He was also ordered to pay nearly £3 million from his personal assets. If he fails to do so within two years, he will have to serve another three years in prison.

Gokal is understood to have received about £4 million in legal aid to fund his fight against the charges. The case is the latest in a growing list where millionaires have pleaded poverty when brought before a court.

Business news, page 25
Background, page 26

Blue Peter finds sweeps' event a shade too sensitive

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

THE whiter-than-white BBC children's programme, *Blue Peter*, was yesterday accused of "political correctness gone mad" after refusing to film child chimney sweeps because they had blackened faces.

Producers of the programme had planned to screen a mini-feature on a Dickensian festival organised by the Rochester and Medway Council on Bank Holiday Monday, but decided the spectacle of children covered with soot might cause racial offence. They pulled out of the Rochester Sweeps' event, in Kent, based on a tradition described by Charles Dickens in his first collection of essays, *Sketches by Boz*, claiming such a feature could be open to misinterpretation.

Critics said the decision was ludicrous and was making a racial issue out of an historical event. One said: "They knew they were coming to film child chimney sweeps. What did they expect them to have — scrubbed clean skin?"

A spokeswoman for *Blue Peter*, which celebrates its 3,000th episode tonight, said producers had planned to film one group of children dressed as chimney sweeps. "But when they said the children were completely blacked up — not just a little bit of soot — we didn't think it was appropriate. We asked the organisers if we could film some morris dancers instead but we were refused."

Oliver Macfarlane, editor of *Blue Peter*, said: "I was concerned that showing people on TV with artificially created black faces might cause offence."

Tony Stalker, of Wainscott, Kent, and a veteran of the event, said: "Morris dancing is based on Moorish culture and, of course, Moors had black faces. And everyone knows the sweeps' black faces just represent soot."

He added: "There were people from a range of ethnic groups watching the event and not one appeared to complain they felt racially offended."

The May Day event marks the end of the chimney sweeps' working season when they would join local morris dancers to celebrate the coming of spring.

Kayleigh Baker, 8, at a similar event in Redditch

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The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48
LETTERS 21, 42
OBITUARIES 23
MATTHEW PARRIS 20
ARTS 33-36
CHESS & BRIDGE 42
COURT & SOCIAL 22
SPORT 40-46, 48
FEATURES 18,19
LAW REPORT 37

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Reform of party funding could help Tories recover

By Peter Riddell

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Conservatives are worried by Labour's new proposals on cleaning up party funding. They are wrong. Disclosure of contributions above £5,000 and controls on overseas donations are not only inherently right, but they would provide the spur that the Tories need to revitalise themselves.

The sums involved are dwarfed by the amounts spent in any election year in California and are less in real terms than in the 19th century here. Moreover, the Tories no longer enjoy a huge financial advantage over Labour.

Funding matters because of who donates and why. No doubt, most wealthy individuals who make donations, just like trade unions, do so because they are persuaded that the Tories or Labour would be better for the country. But there is a big difference between giving a few pounds, or even £100, as a membership subscription and donating a few hundred thousand pounds. The former is rightly a private matter. The latter is not. The Tories have always taken a "none of your business" attitude. They are mistaken. Big donors are courted, feted and given access to ministers (much good may it do both). And there are suspicions of favours and honours in return. There is also something odd about those not qualified to vote in Britain being allowed to donate to British parties. The dangers have been shown by disclosure over Chinese donations, and access, to President Clinton and his re-election campaign last year.

The main British parties have become less dependent on traditional corporate sources of revenue, such as big public companies and trade unions, and more reliant on wealthy individuals. The Tories have attracted some big individual contributions, from both home and abroad, reducing the incentive to attract more individual members and small donors to the party.

Fuller disclosure of sizeable donations, and controls on contributions from abroad, are desirable in their own terms to show that everything is above board. Labour needs to be frank itself, given its pre-election secrecy about the blind trusts financing Mr Blair and other party leaders — as well as the large amount of help it receives in kind from union officials working for the party.

Mr Blair could make a start by insisting that all people appointed by ministers to public posts, or receiving an honour, should have to disclose any money contributed to a political party.

Significantly, there has been no talk of full state-funding beyond the limited help given to opposition parties for their work in Parliament — which should be extended. The public opposes state funding of the ordinary work of parties, which would reduce the pressure on them to broaden their base of support by seeking new members. The only acceptable change would be a tax relief or the like matching small donations.

Tighter controls would, and should, force the parties to seek more money in small amounts. Labour's success on May 1 was partly built on the increase of two-thirds in its individual membership. The Conservatives have never given out official national figures, but no one disputes that their membership has been on the decline, along with their organisation. A precondition for any Tory electoral recovery is a revival of the party's organisation and membership, as happened in the late 1940s. The current system of fundraising has not done the Tories any good electorally, and has only fuelled the impression of shady dealings.

Daniel Johnson, page 20

Blair resists Irish pressure to let IRA join talks

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

TONY BLAIR yesterday resisted pressure from the Irish Government to allow Sinn Fein into multiparty talks when they reopen next month.

The Labour leader made clear that Sinn Fein will not be included in talks until there is proof of a "credible and unequivocal" ceasefire. Senior colleagues said it was "highly unlikely" that the party would be allowed into talks when they reopen on June 3.

Mr Blair made his views clear during a Downing Street meeting with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, the first overseas Head of State to meet the new Prime Minister.

Irish leaders have stepped up pressure on the new Government to allow Gerry Adams' party into discussions as soon as possible to revitalise the peace process. Mr Bruton suggested that a ceasefire, if called within days, could pave the way for Sinn Fein's inclusion in the talks.

Mr Blair, joined by Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, made clear to Mr Bruton that Sinn Fein would be allowed into talks only if an IRA ceasefire was "adhered to in deed and word". Dr Mowlam said later: "I am not sure that June 3 is possible." The Prime Minister stuck rigidly to the stance adopted by John Major in demanding a genuine ceasefire.

The hour-long meeting, intended to demonstrate the two leaders' commitment to inject fresh momentum into the talks, covered more than 20 issues but concentrated mainly on the multiparty talks. Although both leaders said the tone of the meeting had been friendly and raised hopes of further progress, Mr Blair is anxious to tread warily. Senior Labour figures say that Mr Blair would not be rushed into moves "just to give an artificial appearance of activity".

Mr Bruton, under pressure from nationalists ahead of his own imminent general election, raised the prospect of Mr Adams and his colleagues attending the talks. His move comes after Dr Mowlam suggested in March that Sinn Fein should be included in talks swiftly after a declaration of a ceasefire.

Labour leaders have since been more cautious about Sinn Fein's entry after the string of IRA bombings and hoaxes during the election campaign. Senior Labour figures refused to specify the timescale of any ceasefire before allowing Sinn Fein to the table, and insisted that the credibility of the ceasefire was the crucial issue.

The recent spate of attacks on railways across England has made Labour adamant that no ceasefire will be accepted as genuine until there is clear proof, possibly over a period of months, that other terrorist activities such as punishment beatings and targeting have also ceased.

On Wednesday Mr Blair met David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, to reassure him that he would not give way to nationalist pressure without a commitment to ending violence.

However, Mr Bruton insisted that, if Republicans could demonstrate that a new ceasefire was genuine, he saw no reason why Sinn Fein should not be at the table when talks resume in Belfast.

Labour's poll victory could be a turning point in Britain's relations with the European Union. Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, says in today's *Economist*. He writes that the result is what Britain's friends want. However, they do not expect the Government to compromise on defence of Britain's vital interests, nor for difficult issues to become easier. "What matters is the spirit in which difficulties are tackled and how differences are resolved."

Bishop apologises for marriage ruling

By Audrey Magee, Ireland correspondent

AN IRISH Roman Catholic bishop has apologised for the first time for the hurt caused to Protestants who married Catholics and were forced to raise their children in the faith of their partners.

Dr Willie Walsh is seeking forgiveness from Protestants who were obliged to sign a declaration before marriage that they would rear their children as Catholics. The Church refused to marry couples of mixed denomination who declined to sign the *Ne Temere* decree.

In what is seen as a huge shift in Roman Catholic thinking, Dr Walsh, the Bishop of Killaloe, in the west of Ireland, has said that the *Ne Temere* ruling was "contrary to the spirit of Christian generosity and love".

Writing in the May edition of the religious magazine *The Furrow*, Dr Walsh admits that the decree inflicted great sadness and pain on young people in love and on the threshold of married life.

The apology has been welcomed by the Church of Ireland which cites the ruling as a main cause of the decline of Protestantism in the republic.

Cherie Booth putting the case for St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council at the Court of Appeal yesterday

Cherie returns to work as the Blair family's breadwinner

Frances Gibb reports on an unusually well-attended appeal hearing

CHERIE BOOTH, QC, was back earning her living in court yesterday, dressed in her counsel's wig and gown to lead a test case in the Court of Appeal on workers' rights.

For Ms Booth it was very much business as usual, even if she now travels to court from Downing Street. "Glad to see you're all so keen to learn about employment law," she told the waiting press corps when she arrived.

Then with the minimum of fuss the Prime Minister's wife, whose estimated annual earnings at £200,000 are rather more than her husband's, pulled out wig, gown, white collar and tabs from a black bag and "robed up" in the middle of the courtroom over her black trousers and print shirt. "Don't mention my new robing room, guys," she joked. A few light-hearted words with counsel for the other side, some congratulatory kisses, a request for water and then it was down to work.

The case, Ms Booth's first court appearance since the election, was not one which would normally excite much public interest, despite its wide-ranging ramifications. But she told Lords Justices Beldam, Waite and Swinton Thomas that the effect of the Employment Appeal Tribunal ruling against which she is appealing was nothing short of "momentous".

Ms Booth, 42, the only woman in a row of four QCs, four junior counsel and four solicitors, is acting for St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council in an appeal brought by teachers and staff employed at a special school. They were dismissed and then re-employed under less favourable employment conditions when the school was taken over by the borough council from the local county authority.

But the staff, with union backing, lodged an industrial tribunal claim arguing that they were entitled the same employment conditions as before the transfer. They failed, but appealed successfully to the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The appeal tribunal's ruling was contrary to domestic law, to European law and to common sense, Ms Booth told the judges.

It would have the effect of "ossifying" employers' terms and conditions so that these could not be changed, regardless of any advantage, if their organization was taken over. Within the hour, Ms Booth was plunged into obstruse legal authorities and European rulings to demonstrate why the employees should not be entitled, as she put it, to "have their cake and eat it."

Denmark in particular, she said, had provided a "trio of cases with profound implications for England". She expounded a perfectly balanced, almost new Labour, argument about how far the EC-acquired rights directive which is at the heart of the case actually protects workers' rights. The directive did not impose general standards of behaviour throughout the European community, she said. "It gives a minimum protection and it is up to national courts to say how that protection is worked out."

Ms Booth broke for lunch with, "sorry guys, that must have been riveting for you". But there was no doubting her enthusiasm. Asked if she was glad to be back, she said: "Very!" As to whether it beat electioneering, she just smiled.

Information Act would unleash torrent of public queries

Tony Blair is planning a White Paper to consider the options for a Freedom of Information Bill. Valerie Elliott looks at the consequences of lifting Whitehall's traditional veil of secrecy

THE main effect of a Freedom of Information Act would be to trigger a torrent of public inquiries to Government departments. It would be launched amidst a spate of publicity and the public would be told how to get the information they want.

A tough Act would allow the public to get straight answers about medicines, health and safety practices, environmental regulations, decisions on new roads and rail links, food safety. It might even force the Government to change the way they collected information so they had useful data to release — for example food safety data is gathered in such a way at present that a company or product is not identified.

But the power of the Act however will largely depend on the fine print and how far the Government is willing to disclose its own briefings and findings.

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, said yesterday that work would start immediately on a White Paper. Whitehall sources last night thought it could also include data protection and privacy issues.

But it is unclear how far — if at all — Ministers would lift the rules on Cabinet papers and departmental briefings. It is unlikely the block would be lifted on matters about defence, international relations, security services, the police, fairness of legal proceedings, personal privacy, commercial confidentiality and huge tranches of policy.

This week Tony Blair showed his commitment to openness by allowing a cabinet sub-comittee to be photographed for the first time. He has also given the green light for some political advisers and senior officials to speak out on policy matters.

His real commitment will be tested therefore in the make-up of this new Bill. He might wish to make some inroads in the present exemptions list. For example, while there is a ban on work of security services, he might allow disclosure of any illegal activity uncovered by them. The Government would also have to consider the question of cost, or whether to to charge at all. John Major introduced a new code offering access to information but the charges may have put people off. Last year for example only 2,033 inquiries were received, although that was nearly double the 1995 figure of 1,353.

An hourly rate is charged depending on the time taken to find out the answer. Sometimes a routine inquiry is given free of charge, but anything taking more than five hours work, would be charged at about £20 an hour.

A pressure group however who requested complicated facts might tot up over £1,000 in fees and if a nuclear inspector or some other specialist is required he might charge some £45 an hour.

Mr Major decided that if policy advice were published then officials would not be free and frank with their views. Ministers would receive anodyne briefing papers which would be worthless as guides.

But even he was eventually persuaded to introduce a harm test on policy papers and allow their release if candour was not threatened, and in cases of overriding public interest the papers could be released anyway. Yet so far no piece of information has been released in Whitehall for over-riding public interest means.

Even the appeal system at present is complicated. If a member of the public is dissatisfied with an answer at present, he can complain to the Department to review it, and if that fails he can ask an MP to raise the matter with the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Michael Buckley.

But the present code does not even relate to bodies outside the his ambit — so the Atomic Energy Authority, the Civil Aviation Authority, police, other nationalised industries, local government and quangos are exempt.

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said last night: "I think the Government is being much too

£100,000 for man tricked into confession

A former paratrooper who was jailed for six years by the Old Bailey for conspiracy to rob was awarded £100,000 damages yesterday by a High Court jury who were told that police had fabricated evidence and tricked him into implicating himself.

Ramon Canale had sued Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, for malicious prosecution and false imprisonment after he spent 20 months in jail before being freed on appeal in November 1989. The police were also ordered to pay the costs of the month-long hearing, which were estimated at £300,000.

Telephone bill

Two councillors accused of having an affair have been asked by a council committee to pay £600 for calls made on council-owned mobile telephones at public expense. Arthur Latham, leader of the Labour group on Havering Borough Council in Essex, and Caroline Warren insist that most of the calls were made on council business. The district auditor said that nothing illegal had occurred.

Fireman shot

An off-duty fireman was shot twice in the head at a bus stop on the outskirts of Glasgow during the morning rush-hour in what appeared to be a gangland-style killing. Ralph Sprott, 34, of Clydebank, was murdered 200 yards from his home as he stood on Kilbowie Road. A man wearing a motorcycle helmet shot him with what is thought to have been a handgun. The assailant escaped.

Fire strike talks

Firefighters suspended their industrial action in Essex and held talks with Essex County Council leaders. More than 900 firemen have staged seven stoppages in the county over £1.5 million cuts in the service budget. They had been due to walk out at 6pm. The council has spent more than £500,000 hiring Green Goddess appliances and police escorts to provide cover during the strikes.

Food for flights

Hundreds of British Airways passengers had to take food parcels on board their long-haul flights from Heathrow's Terminal 4 as members of the 1,200-strong catering staff worked to rule. The airline handed out food vouchers to passengers checking in for all flights from the terminal and urged them either to eat in the airport before departure or to take sandwiches for the flight.

Football tribute

The world's first black professional footballer who died in penniless obscurity has been acknowledged by the unveiling of a headstone at his unmarked grave in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. Arthur Wharton, a missionary's son who came to Britain from the Gold Coast in the 1880s, died in 1930 and remained forgotten until Phil Vasili, a writer, began to research his past.

Non-stop comedy

Channel 4 is devoting its May Bank Holiday weekend schedule to a celebration of British comedy and the history of the *double entendre*. Programmes include re-runs of *Up Pompeii*, *On the Buses*, *George and Mildred* and *Rising Damp*. Julian Clary will present *Has Anyone Seen My Pussy?*, a documentary on the rise of innuendo in comedy shows.

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Judge rules that excessive force was used

Thief wins case against farmer who kicked him

By Paul Wilkinson

Stanley Wiles, left, who will have to pay damages to Malcolm Phillips, right, whose jaw he broke

A BURGLAR has successfully sued a farmer who broke his jaw with a kick after catching him stealing roof slates from a piggery. Stanley Wiles, 63, must pay damages to Malcolm Phillips, 37.

Mr Wiles used excessive force when he struck Mr Phillips as he crawled on the ground already semi-conscious from an earlier blow that had fractured his skull, Mrs Justice Smith ruled at the High Court in Leeds.

Mr Phillips had sued the North Yorkshire farmer for damages for injuries, including the fractured skull, a broken leg and a fractured jaw, sustained during the incident in January 1991.

But Mrs Justice Smith said that Mr Wiles, who runs a piggery at Osgodby, near Selby, was only liable for the broken jaw and the other injuries inflicted when he kicked the thief. "I think he kicked out violently, more violently than was necessary or was reasonable."

Mrs Justice Smith decided that the earlier injury and tying the dazed thief to a gate in a crucifix position were not unreasonable. She dismissed damages claims for those assaults, saying the farmer was within his rights effectively to make a citizen's arrest by stringing him up. She said he was entitled to fasten the string as tightly as he wanted.

Mr Phillips was given legal aid to bring his claim. Mrs Justice Smith adjourned the case to assess damages.

Mr Wiles was acquitted at York Crown Court in 1992 of wounding Mr Phillips with intent. In 1991 at the same court Mr Phillips, from York, was given a conditional discharge after admitting the attempted theft of slates.

After yesterday's judgment, Mr Phillips, who still uses a walking stick, said: "I am happy with the decision that some form of liability was found and that the judge agreed he went too far. To this day I still can't recall what happened on that night."

The court was told how after discovering three intruders on his farm, Wiles had triggered an alarm linked to the police station and waited for officers to arrive. Mr Phillips leapt from the roof but landed awkwardly and broke his leg in two places. As the thief tried to get away the farmer punched him in the face at least three times, then grabbed him from behind and threw him violently into a pillar, which broke his skull. He fell unconscious on the ground for almost 20 minutes.

Later when the farmer demanded his name, Mr Phillips groaned and grabbed his leg. Mr Wiles then kicked him in the face. Mr Phillips was then tied with binder twine. The police arrived three hours later and found him mumbling incoherently with his head on his chest.

Mr Wiles told them: "I threw a punch, or possibly two, at him. Then I grabbed hold of him with one hand at the back of his neck and the other at his backside and swung him straight round. He ended up on the other side of the passageway behind me. I believe he struck a pillar."

Mrs. Justice Smith ruled that Wiles had used reasonable force up to the point when he lashed out with his foot. She said: "He has not explained to me why it was he kicked the plaintiff away. He used substantial force.

"By this time anger and indignation, provoked probably in part by the failure or refusal to answer his questions, were probably the dominant emotions in the defendant's mind. I think he kicked out more violently than was necessary or reasonable."

Dismissing the claims for the other injuries, she said it was lawful for a civilian to take such action to defend himself or his property. "I accept the defendant was very frightened for his own safety. It was very dark. He was one, and they were three. He did not know where the other two were at the time.

"I think his action was within the bounds of what was reasonable in the circumstances, violent though it was."

Mourners will hear music by Rachel McGrath discovered after her death

Musical legacy of murdered daughter

By Russell Jenkins

MUSIC composed by a judge's murdered daughter will be played at her funeral today after her parents discovered it in the memory banks of her electric piano.

Brian and Diane McGrath of Wilmslow, Cheshire, discovered the piece by Rachel, 27, as they went through her belongings after the killing. Miss McGrath was knifed to death in the car park of a public house in south Manchester last month: after she had gone to collect her partner, Kevin Forster.

Judge McGrath, a district judge who sits in Manchester, said they were overjoyed to have found the composition, which they believe shows their daughter "playing as she felt". He said: "She had a great love of music and was never happier than when she was playing, and this is very much part of her. It has a poignancy which will bring tears but it underlines the loss of a beautiful and talented daughter."

Miss McGrath, who was a building society assistant manager, had played piano in local restaurants and more recently became a leading player in an amateur operatic society.

A man has appeared in court charged with her murder.

Kitchen hand put petrol on the menu

By Michael Horsnell

A DRUNKEN Lithuanian kitchen hand who splashed customers with petrol during a protest over low wages was sent to prison for two months yesterday.

Vladimir Maisky, 50, arrived for work clutching a petrol can and a portable stereo on which he was playing nationalist marching music. Diners fled, fearing that cigarettes would ignite the petrol, as staff tried to pin down Maisky, the Old Bailey was told.

Maisky, who speaks little English, received £170 for up to 100 hours' kitchen and cleaning work at Le Mercury in Islington, north London. He was paid by cheque, although he did not have a bank account. Alex Milne, for the prosecution, told the court: "He felt he had been cheated by the restaurant and this was by way of revenge."

Maisky, who came to England after the break-up of the Soviet Union, admitted affray. The court accepted his plea of not guilty to the more serious charge of attempted arson with intent to endanger life.

Judge Denison, QC, the Common Serjeant of London, told Maisky: "You may have had a grievance, real or imagined, about the method and amount you were paid. But when you committed this offence you were drunk ... you caused innocent people to be put in a serious state of fear."

Stuart Trimmer, for Maisky, of Forest Gate, east London, said he had been granted a temporary resident's permit which expired on May 15, but was renewable.

Hope, target

Firewoman in sex case wins £6,000

A WOMAN firefighter who has been off sick for eight months after suffering sex discrimination is to return to work after winning £6,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

Jenny Hope, 31, from Bedford, complained that she was subjected to offensive behaviour and ridicule after joining the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire Service two years ago. "I was a target because I was a woman," the mother-of-two said yesterday.

She said she was not worried about returning to work. "I think people are big enough to accept that they made mistakes in the past and put them behind them."

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union which backed Ms Hope, said: "I'm delighted she Hope feels she can go back."

Bronwen Jenkins, from the union's solicitors, said: "I hope this case demonstrates to employers that they can take positive steps to address the problem of sex discrimination. The alternative is paying out large sums of money in compensation."

Why it's Ace to call your son Gobnat

By Damian Whitworth

THE fashion for calling a child Gobnat, Zenith or Ace has accelerated in recent years as parents become more adventurous, according to the authors of a dictionary of first names. The decline in churchgoing is being blamed for parents picking increasingly bizarre names.

A flood of exotic new entries join traditional favourites in the *Oxford Concise Dictionary of First Names*, published yesterday for the first time in five years. As well as a revival of Celtic names, surnames and names of places are being used as first names along with made-up words and some that look suspiciously like misprints.

Patrick Hanks, co-author of the revised edition, said: "Some of the names are very much a matter of personal taste. What we are seeing is a reflection of the break-up of church and state values. Previously many people chose the names of their children from a pool of about a thousand names with Christian and biblical connections."

Mr Hanks said that many of the new names such as Gobnat and Blathnat, respectively an Irish saint and queen, and Conley, the Gaelic for chaste, show a return to Celtic roots.

Classic surnames like Brontë, Darwin, Drake and Lambert are recorded as first names for the first time as well as girls — Malerie, Nichelle and Lyra — who appear to have been born of illiterate parents. Compilers also suspect that Hale-Bopp will appear in the next edition.

Potters shun golden chance to make Queen look a mug

By Alan Hamilton

Queen and Duke: she says she wants no fuss

THE mug and plate industry has apparently decided that the Queen's golden wedding this year will be a dead-loss for the souvenir china trade.

Manufacturers who have been happy to churn out items for such milestones as the birth of the Duke and Duchess of York's children believe that the market in royal knick-knacks is in decline, and will be producing nothing to remind us that Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, RN, married Princess Elizabeth on November 20, 1947.

Wedgwood, Spode and Royal Worcester have turned their backs on the occasion. Aynsley is producing a line, but only at the request of a mail-order firm. Of the leading potters, only Royal Doulton intends to produce a full range.

At Wedgwood's Stoke-on-Trent headquarters yesterday, a spokeswoman said that demand for royal commemorative items had declined steadily from its peak in 1981, when the Prince of Wales married Lady Diana Spencer, unleashing a tidal wave of trinkets. The souvenir market for that event is estimated to have been worth about £800 million.

"If there was a major event like a wedding, then obviously we would look again. But for anniversaries, there is not the demand," the spokeswoman said.

Ken Barnes, of Aynsley, also based in Stoke, said that his firm's decision not to produce any lines of its own did not reflect any waning popularity of the Royal Family.

Part of the problem is that the Lord Chamberlain has not approved a logo or design for the wedding anniversary. The Queen has made known that she does not want a fuss made and, besides, the Lord Chamberlain's office has become increasingly concerned at approved designs being used on unsuitable items. Such commemorative ware as is produced will carry portraits of the Queen and the Duke which do not need the Lord Chamberlain's permission.

Steven Jackson, of the Commemorative Collectors' Society, said: "The manufacturers are making a mistake. There is certainly a demand."

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هكذا من الأصل

'We'll look after this ourselves,' says one mother as extra police are called in to keep peace on estate

Parents threaten revenge for primary school rape

BY ADRIAN LEE

[redacted]

EXTRA police were drafted on to the streets of west London last night after parents threatened revenge against five schoolboys accused of raping a nine-year-old girl.

As teaching staff attempted to carry on lessons as normally as possible at the primary school in Shepherd's Bush, there was shock and anger among parents who gathered at the school gates yesterday. *One mother said: "We'll deal* with this ourselves. It is estate rules now."

Many said they were horrified, but not surprised, by the attack, said to have taken place in a lavatory block during the lunch hour on Tuesday. The school is on the edge of a sprawling council estate and has a reputation for bullying. Some parents said they refused to send their children there. Other estate *residents threatened reprisals* against the families of those suspected of the attack.

Five boys, four aged 10 and one aged 9, were suspended from school on Wednesday after the girl's mother complained to the head teacher about the attack.

A close friend of the girl's mother said: "She is upset and angry. She sent her child off to school as *normal.* How can something like that happen? She is in a right state." The woman said she withdrew her *own nine-year-old daughter* from the school last year after a group of boys ran into the girls' lavatories and pulled her pants down.

Other parents complained about poor standards and discipline at the school, which has 182 pupils. One said a boy recently exposed himself to her daughter, who was pinned against a wall.

A lollipop lady at the school said: "It has gone downhill. *The kids run riot in the streets.* They are out of control and their language is filthy. The teachers don't seem able to control them. It used to be a respectable school, but now it does *not surprise* me that this has happened."

A father who has a five-year-old son at the school said: "He is always being picked on. He has had clothes stolen. I can't believe this has happened at a primary school." Another parent said: "My son is terrified of going there. I *have complained constantly* but nothing ever seems to get done. *It* is shocking that something like this can happen at a primary school, but the sad thing is that I am not surprised."

Parents were told about the alleged attack in a letter from the chairman of governors. Addressed to "Dear parent/carer", it said a "serious incident occurred at the school … involving an allegation of *sexual assault on a year five* pupil by a number of other year five pupils". Parents were told that the accused boys had been excluded and were *assured that their children's* education would continue as normal.

The school, a mix of Victorian and modern buildings, is virtually surrounded by high-rise flats. It draws its pupils mainly from two council estates and seven out of ten pupils are from ethnic minorities.

The head teacher yesterday declined to comment on the incident. Hammersmith and *Fulham Education Authority* said it would carry out its own investigation. However, a source at the education authority said: "It is fair to say it is not one of our best schools. It has all the problems you would associate with an inner-city school."

Counselling has been offered to all those affected by the incident, although the children were given no explanation for the absence of six of *their friends. The girl has been* seen by a doctor and questioned by a policewoman from the area's rape unit.

Playground 'rape'
Girl of 9 raped by five of her classmates
BY DANIEL MCGRORY AND STEWART
Five boys held after 'rape of 10-year-old'
BARBARA McMAHON
boys have been
by detectives inves-
allegations that a 10-

How newspapers reported the incident yesterday. The school said only that "a serious incident occurred"

Inspectors praised 'friendly pupils'

BY JOHN O'LEARY

THE SCHOOL

THE school was praised by inspectors in their last visit for improving levels of behaviour and giving priority to spiritual, moral and social *development.*

The inspectors, who made their visit two years ago, credited a new head teacher with giving strong leadership in an area of social deprivation. Their report said: "Behaviour in the playground is *satisfactory. Relationships* are sound, opportunities are provided to develop social skills and pupils are friendly and eager to learn." With 25 pupils in each year group, the school is a medium-sized primary, catering for boys and girls from three to 11.

But the intake is far from typical in other respects. Al*most 75 per* cent of children qualify for free school meals, compared with just over 50 per cent for the borough as a whole. An unusually high number of pupils — 43 per cent — have learning or behavioural difficulties, and 42 per cent live with single parents. The large numbers with special needs contribute to an unusually good staffing level for a primary school: there is a ratio of one teacher for every 16 pupils.

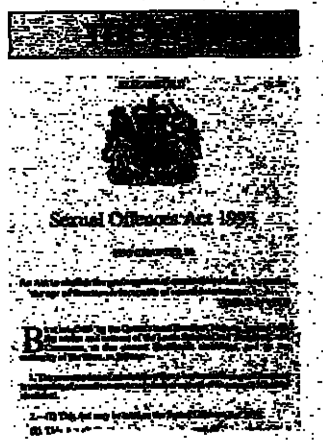
Ever-younger offenders test legal limits

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL AND DAVID CHARTER

BOYS as young as six commit serious sexual abuse against other children and it is not uncommon for nine-year-olds to commit rape, according to Dr Eileen Vizard, a consultant child psychiatrist.

Dr Vizard, clinical director of a project that assesses and treats juvenile abusers, said that since 1992 the average age of those interviewed has dropped from 17 to 13.

"What has allegedly happened to this nine-year-old girl does not surprise me at all," she said. "We see the littler boys and there is no question that they are capable of abuse. We are talking about some form of penetrative abuse. It is not trivial.



Sexual Offences Act 1993

The Act lowering the age of responsibility

"It is important to realise that up to 50 per cent of all sexual abuse of children is carried out by perpetrators under 21." She had dealt with boys as young as six.

Dr Vizard, who was consulted on the James Bulger murder case, runs the Young Abusers Project, part of the Camden and Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust in north London.

Before 1993 there was a common law presumption that boys under 14 were incapable of sexual intercourse. That was abolished under the Sexual Offences Act which lowered the age of criminal responsibility to ten.

Sources at the Crown Prosecution Service indicated yesterday that the four boys aged ten accused of rape could face charges, but not their alleged nine-year-old accomplice.

Dr Vizard said the age of puberty varies in boys and generally stands between 11 and 15. "We know of course that it is more than possible for boys to have a full erection before puberty," she said.

"We have dealt with boys of nine who have successfully penetrated their victim. The difficulty is what the police and the courts do about it. At that age it's very difficult because of the issue of *doli incapax* [incapable of deceit]. At the age of eight or nine, children know at some level that what they are doing is wrong, but at another level they are very driven by sexual excitement."

The alleged incident has prompted a call from David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, that children as young as nine be taught the meaning of rape. There could be no room for caution among primary school teachers in explaining sexual matters and right from wrong, he said.

He *also urged every school* to review its supervision of pupils, especially at lunchtime when the rape allegedly happened.

A survey of discipline at primary schools in *The Times* last summer found a fourfold rise in the number of under-12s expelled since the start of the decade.

At present, sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but in practice most children are introduced to it at 10 or 11.

Mr Hart said: "All schools should have a programme of personal and social education, which should include sex education, and I think it is perfectly proper to expect primary children to learn exactly what rape means."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the teachers' union NASUWT, said order was most at risk at schools during the lunch break, when untrained mothers or other volunteers were left to supervise children.

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Legal dogfight ends after noisy pets see therapist

By Paul Wilkinson

Silent treatment: Jan Westby at work with Sophie

FOUR dogs whose barking drove neighbours wild are living the quiet life again after therapy sessions with an animal "psychiatrist".

Magistrates threatened to remove the animals after Mark Bambrough protested about their continuous barking while their owner was at work. But six weeks with Jan Westby, a pet therapist, has brought peace to the street and Mr Bambrough has halted his legal action.

Yesterday the dogs' owner, Pamela Chambers, said: "I can't thank Jan enough. I was worried sick about losing them. The court would have taken the dogs away if they had carried on barking.

"But the therapy has worked and Mr Bambrough is quite happy now. We have reduced the noise to an acceptable level and we have reached an agreement."

The neighbours, who claim still to be on good terms, went to court earlier this year when Mr Bambrough sought a noise abatement notice. He said that the constant barking during the day was making life impossible for him, his wife and two young children. He agreed, however, to an adjournment until yesterday to allow Mrs Westby time to try to quieten Sadie, a 13-year-old whippet cross, Bramble, an eight-year-old collie cross, and 19-month-old alsatian puppies Oscar and Sophie. Yesterday he withdrew his application at Bradford Magistrates' Court.

Mrs Westby has been treating dogs with behaviour problems for five years but had never been asked to help in a court case before. "Dogs that have been brought up in a very stable environment can suffer from separation anxiety when someone important leaves them," she said. "It can manifest itself in many ways, including howling and barking. I see dogs with varying degrees of behavioural problems and I felt these dogs could be cured. It just takes persistence on the part of the owners." She stayed with the dogs while Mrs Chambers, 43, left her home.

Mrs Chambers, a jeweller, said: "The problem was the constant barking when there was no one in the house. They would bark at everything that pulled up at our door or Mr Bambrough's. It wasn't fair and I can understand him being unhappy, but I didn't realise how bad it was because I wasn't there. It has improved 100 per cent and we are both happy with the situation now.

"The main problem was with the puppies, which are brother and sister. Jan said they were bonded together and with me. She said the first thing we had to do was break the bonding with me and then with each other.

"We had to take their minds off me not being there so we gave them toys to play with and built up the time I wasn't there from 20 minutes to an hour and then two hours, and it has worked. We have broken the bonding.

"We also had to teach them commands. When they barked we let them do so a couple of times and then gave the command 'Enough'. Now, when we say 'Enough', they stop.

"We have to work very hard with them and basically love them like babies. You have to speak to them and be firm, like with any child. It has taken a lot of hard work and patience and we have spent a lot more time with them than we would normally. They are four individual dogs with minds of their own."

Mr Bambrough said: "The dogs are still there, but we are not getting bothered by them now. I don't think there will be a recurrence and I hope that's the end of the matter. Pamela and ourselves do get on. We have never fallen out."

Anthony Flax with Bobby, the family pet, who was burnt and badly grazed

Pony set on fire after being tied to rail line

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO youths tied a Shetland pony to a railway line with its neck on the track, set fire to its mane and waited for a train to arrive. The animal was rescued by two passers-by who heard its whinnies.

Bobby, a five-year-old, was taken from a field near the line. It suffered burns to its back and a badly grazed head after thrashing around on the track, trying to escape. The pony is recovering with its owners, Anthony Flax, 4, and his sisters Kate, 10, and Hayley, 13, of Gateshead.

Police are searching for the youths, who ran away when the rescuers arrived. Yesterday the children's aunt, Jean Nicholson, said: "These people have to be caught — if they can do this to a little animal, they could do it to a person. It is unforgiveable to treat a poor defenceless creature in this way."

Mrs Nicholson, 43, of Felling, Gateshead, said that the ropes were pulled so tight that a vet called to the scene could not use a knife to cut the pony free. She had to burn through them.

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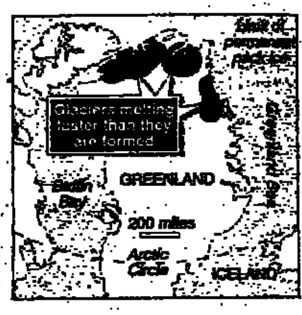
Melting ice-sheet raises fears for low countries

By Nick Nuttall



PARTS of the Greenland ice-sheet are melting faster than they are being formed, a discovery which offers further evidence of global warming.

Researchers believe that the thinning of the ice-sheet and glaciers in the north of Greenland are already causing tiny rises in sea levels across the globe. The findings will intensify concern among some small island states, such as *Mauritius*, that, unless emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide are reduced, they will disappear under the waves. Rising sea levels could also threaten coastlines in low-lying parts of Britain.

Images taken by the two European remote sensing satellites, ERS-1 and ERS-2, analysed by Nasa scientists and other centres, show that the ice on 14 glaciers is disappearing faster than it is formed and is thinning the glaciers by 2.5 centimetres a year.

The scientists, whose findings are published in the journal *Science*, estimate that the excess melting amounts to about 1.7 billion gallons annually — or just under half the water used in Britain each day. The scientists say that this is sufficient to raise sea *levels by 0.02mm a year.*

More studies are planned to see if there is similar melting across Greenland. But the findings back up supercomputer models of global warming, which forecast that temperature rises due to man-made pollution will be more apparent near the poles.

Dr Norman Davis, of the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, said yesterday: "This is pretty good evidence to show that climate change is occurring; that is has begun."

The significance of glaciers melting was that the ice and water produced from those land-based ice-sheets could affect sea levels, he said. "A few centimetres a year is quite a lot because of the size of the ice-sheets involved."

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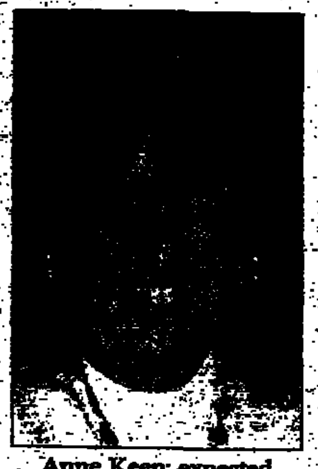
Couple kept surrogate triplets a family secret

By Kathryn Knight



Anne Keep: expected to carry only one baby

THE parents of surrogate triplets said yesterday that they had had to keep their "blessings from God" a secret in the tense months leading up to their birth.

As Anthony and Julie Cohn cuddled Albert, George and Henry, they said they were so anxious about something going wrong that they did not dare to buy any baby clothes or equipment until after the births.

Before they took the babies home from the Royal Free Hospital in northwest London, Mr Cohn, 31, said they knew before they were married that surrogacy was the only way that they would have children. Mrs Cohn was born with no womb and cannot carry babies, although she can produce eggs.

"We wanted to have children that were genetically ours and this was the only way it could happen. We knew it would be a difficult procedure, but we had no doubts at all," Mr Cohn said.

Anne Keep, a 41-year-old grandmother from Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, was impregnated with two of Mrs Cohn's fertilised eggs last year. She and the Cohns had expected only one baby, but one of the eggs divided, resulting in three boys, two of whom are identical.

"It was an enormous shock when we knew we were going to have triplets," Mr Cohn said. "It was more than we could ever expect. It's like a miracle was found."

A tense few months ensued when the couple felt they could not share their news with anyone other than very close family and trusted friends. Mr Cohn's colleagues at the East London Hospital, where he is a paediatrician, had no idea he was to be a father.

A telephone call at 6.30am one morning in March brought their anxious wait to an end. The couple were told that Mrs Keep would have a Caesarean section that morning, with the babies being born three months premature. The moment the three tiny babies were first placed in her arms was "pure joy", Mrs Cohn said.

The couple were adamant that they had never worried that Mrs Keep would want to keep the babies. "Her attitude has been that she has been an ante-natal babysitter and there has never been any suggestion they were anything other than our babies," Mr Cohn said.

"We never thought we would find anyone as wonderful and giving as Anne," Mrs Cohn said. "She was very easy-going. We developed a very close relationship and we'll always remain close for the rest of our lives and our children's lives." The couple said that they had no moral objections to surrogacy and called for mothers such as Mrs Keep to receive proper payment. Under British law, they were able to pay only her basic expenses. Mr Cohn said: "At the moment surrogates don't get any money, but I think it's only fair they receive a degree of decent remuneration for the hardship and labour they go through."

The Cohns admitted that they were not looking forward to the sleepless nights ahead in their two-bedroom flat above a butcher's shop in Belsize Park, northwest London. The babies will be formally named at a private Jewish ceremony later this year. The couple have already checked with religious authorities that the boys are accepted as Jewish.

Dr Vivienne van Someren, a consultant paediatrician at the Royal Free, said the hard work would be coping with the three babies. "They are all fine and they are now approaching the time when they would be full term. The main problem is going to be the sheer physical hard work of coping with three babies at once."

JUSTIN WILLIAM

Anthony and Julie Cohn with their triplets yesterday. They described their birth as a blessing from God

Store defends experiment in varying prices

By Lin Jenkins

CUSTOMERS who were charged varying prices at different Sainsbury's stores have reacted angrily to a company explanation that the prices are part of a consumer experiment.

They said that the supermarket giant, which has just announced a 15 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, was making a public pitch for customer loyalty while privately regarding its customers as gullible.

Sainsbury's said yesterday that it could not comment on the policy, saying it was commercially sensitive information. A spokeswoman admitted that prices varied on a number of lines in several of its 370 stores, but she would not give details.

Consumer groups believe it may herald the start of attempts to increase profits by charging more in middle-class areas.

Gill Johnson, 35, of Bournemouth, found that a bottle of sherry at the store in the town's Hampshire Centre had risen in price by 10 per cent. She paid the extra assuming that the increase was uniform. When she went to the store in Christchurch and found the same item for sale at the former price of £3.96, rather than £4.35, she was furious.

The reply she received after complaining incensed her further: "Sainsbury's told me it was an experiment, but to me it is a price rise. It is not right that customers should have to pay different prices in different stores."

The company said that the variations in pricing were part of a nationwide market research exercise. The reasons were being kept secret.

Should the customer find out the reason, argued a spokeswoman, the results of the research would be invalid. "If people knew what we were doing, it would affect the results. The whole point is that we are trying to get feedback from customers."

Was part of the research designed to see whether customers noticed disparities in prices? "We cannot give further details because we do not want our competitors to know what we are doing," she said. "This really has to be looked at from a wider perspective."

The National Consumer Council described the policy, and the company's explanation, as "extraordinary". "We think what is happening is that they think they can charge a bit more for certain products in some areas, perhaps the more middle-class ones."

The ploy might not endear the company to customers once they discovered it, the council added.

Crabs are best of the week's catch

By Dareh Gregorian

DESPITE wintry weather, there is a good selection of fish this week, with prices remaining steady.

Among shellfish, scallops are in plentiful supply, and the consumer group Food and Other Matters recommend crab as its best buy of the week. Advertised promotions include:

Asda: gala apples 8 for 89p, *Healthy Choice* turkey stir-fry £1.59 for 320g, Goodfellas twin-pack cheese supreme pizza 454g for 69p, Asda breaded cod fillets 800g for £2.95, Del Monte pineapple slices 820g for 69p.

Budgens: whole fresh chicken £4.79 for 2.3 kg, fresh haddock fillets £2.34 per lb, Ginsters large cornish pasty 227g for 59p, soft white rolls six for 49p.

Co-op (CWS): fresh minced beef £1.96 per kg, French VacPac *potatoes* 500g for 79p, mixed choice salad 200g for 99p, Bowyers thick pork and beef sausages 454g for 99p, Co-op reduced calorie coleslaw 500g for 89p.

Harrods: Black Forest ham and asparagus country roll £2.99 each, Swiss Hilcona hollandaise sauce £2.99 each, honey and cinammon *ham £1.99* per 100g, broccoli and shrimp salad £1.29 per 100g.

Iceland: chicken quarters 2kg for £2.99, North Atlantic prawns 200g for £1.49, garden peas 1.81 kg for £1.49, Chinese stir fry 680g for 99p, Iceland mint chocolate gateau 400g for £1.49.

Kwik Save: Colman's English *mustard 100g for 57p*, Haywards silverskin onions 270g for 59p, Batchelors potato savouries — cheese 85g for 59p.

Marks and Spencer: Italian tomato sauce 300g for 75p, iced coffee cake 79p, New Zealand cox's apples 6 for £1.59, quiche lorraine 400g for £1.49, cooked roast chicken breast fillets four for £3.99.

Morrisons: British silverside of beef £1.79 per lb, British frying steak £1.89 per lb, Morrisons Cumberland thick sausages £1.59 per lb, haddock fillet £1.99 per lb, broccoli 250g for 29p.

Safeway: sausage rolls five for 99p, ham and pasta salad 59p per qtr lb, Young's Scottish island scampi *325g for £2.99*, conference pears 26p per lb, oranges six for £1.19.

Sainsbury's: frozen chicken breast 900g for £3.95, New Zealand new season's lamb with shoulder bone in £3.45 per kg, pork chops £5.29 per kg, iceberg lettuce *49p* each.

Somerfield: baking potatoes 84p for 2.5kg, celery sticks 300g for 79p, fresh salmon steaks £3.00 per lb, white cobble rolls four for 49p.

Tesco: half-shoulder of lamb £3.19 per kg, forerib of beef £4.49 per kg, salmon steaks £2.95 per lb, celery 55p each, cauliflower 39p each, carrots *19p per lb*.

Waitrose: Caesar salad 99p, butternut squash 69p per lb, bunched asparagus £1.59 per 250g, fresh chicken £5.89 for 2.5 kg, farmhouse ground veal 280g for £1.19.

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Fee rises 'turn medicine into a job for the rich'

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT, AND GLEN OWEN

THE medical profession is in danger of once more becoming a preserve of the rich, according to the students' committee of the British Medical Association.

Tightening of budgets has already forced some leading medical schools to withdraw the subsidy they have traditionally paid to postgraduates who read medicine after a first degree in another subject. This means the fees for the five-year course are trebling from £4,000 to £12,000.

The medical schools at Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, St Andrews, Southampton, King's College London and St George's Hospital, London, have ended the subsidy system. Others are known to be considering dropping it. About 10 per cent of medical students are postgraduates, although in some schools the proportion is as high as 20 per cent.

Derek McLaughlan, chairman of the committee, said yesterday that the high fees were deterring students who decided to switch to medicine after obtaining a degree in a different discipline. They were no longer eligible for a local authority grant because they already had a degree, and they usually had a student loan debt which made it difficult for them to fund the five-year medical course.

"These are people who would potentially become some of the best doctors and who would be most likely to stay in the health service at a time when so many are leaving," Mr McLaughlan said. "Patients really value what older students with life experience have to offer. These are students who bring wide experience to the profession.

"But with fees at around £12,000, you need to have parents earning at least £40,000 to be able to apply to medical school. As a trainee doctor, I am often contacted by people who want to apply to medical school. The first thing I have to ask them is, 'Are your parents rich?'"

Mr McLaughlan, 35, is in his final year at Nottingham. He trained in biological sciences and worked as a teacher for eight years before deciding to study medicine. "Fortunately I am not affected by the end of subsidies, but if I had been required to pay the full amount I would never have been able to become a doctor," he said. "Students who find the subsidy removed will now either have to drop the course or build up a tremendous debt before they can qualify."

Other medical students agreed that cuts in subsidies would force them to rely on parents. Sarah Davey, 25, a junior doctor at the Royal Free Hospital, London, said: "The only people who would be able to enter the profession would be from well-off backgrounds." She graduated 18 months ago and still owes £8,000. The BMA says the average debt on qualifying is £6,700.

"During the last three years of training you are studying for 48 weeks a year, so there is no time to supplement the grant with holiday work."

The not-too-bright young students who populated the *Doctor in the House* films went out with the 1950s

Modern intake lacks the experience of its privileged predecessors

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

REPORTS that parents of prospective doctors should have £12,000 available to underwrite their medical education could be misleading.

The British Medical Association's medical students' committee suggested that the parents of some students would need private funds, but it was referring to the comparatively small number who already had a degree in some other subject and were switching to medicine late in their university careers.

Medical students are changing. The days of the tweed-suited, hard-drinking medic portrayed in the *Doctor in the House* series ended in the 1950s. By 1979, when I fought my last general election and had easy access to statistics, more than 80 per cent of students admitted to the teaching hospital where I was then working had had a state education. By the time I left the hospital two or three years ago, I would suppose that the percentage was very much higher: few of the students came from a financially privileged background.

Just as all politicians, and most of the medical hierarchy, have remained silent about the current problems of finding adequate numbers of people who are motivated and intelligent enough to become nurses, so have the difficulties of selecting and educating medical students been hidden from public scrutiny.

Today's medical student is much more intelligent, in terms of IQ, than in my generation. Because of the academic standards needed to gain entry into medical school, today's students are quicker to learn and have a better grasp of the scientific principles that are the basis of high technology medicine. However, it was striking, when sitting in a clinic with students in the early 1990s, that, although bright, they lacked the clinical experience of earlier generations at a comparable stage in their education.

Medical students were fortunate and privileged in my day. The wards were highly disciplined and the patients received expert care within them, but they had few rights. If a patient had a large liver or spleen, an interesting rash or a peculiar heart sound, they were considered excellent teaching material, available to any student assigned to the team looking after them. Nobody asked the patient: "Would you mind if a student examined you?" It was assumed that their lack of privacy was a price to pay for top-quality care.

Students now have only limited access to patients. Before medicine became as specialised as it is, and so many of the patients could be cured by wonder drugs in their own homes, the wards were filled with people who were suffering from the complications of the ordinary diseases that they would later see daily in general practice.

The signs and symptoms of these run-of-the-mill complaints were readily on display, not only in the wards of the teaching hospitals, but in the hospitals where they would later do their house jobs. Now the teaching hospitals are filled with the rare and exotic.

Treating patients efficiently not only requires knowledge but an understanding of human nature derived from an intense interest in people. It does not require the brain of a Balliol scholar. Whether the present system of selection is finding people who would make good doctors and who would continue to practise after qualification is open to doubt. It is also questionable whether the medical schools are giving them adequate experience in their training.

Doctors to press Dobson for £1bn extra spending

BY IAN MURRAY

DOCTORS' leaders are to ask the Government next week for a commitment to spend as much on health as the average among the leading industrialised nations.

Although Labour has promised to stay inside the Conservative spending budget, the doctors will say that unless the money can be found the health service is in danger.

Bringing Britain up to the average level of the other member nations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development would cost £5 billion over five years. Britain spends 7.1 per cent of GDP on health, against the 8.4 per cent OECD average. The United States spends 14 per cent and Japan, at the bottom of the league, 6.9 per cent.

The urgent need for extra funding will be at the top of the agenda next Wednesday when BMA council members meet Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. Sandy Macara, chairman of the council, said yesterday: "I take a very gloomy view of the finances of the NHS. There is a potential crisis. The fact that it hasn't happened yet is because our people are just managing to keep it going."

He was optimistic, however, that the Government had a clear intention to devise a strategy that would improve the health of the nation.

Dr Macara welcomed the Government's commitment to abolishing "the wretched internal market" in the health service, but added that this would not solve the cash problem. "There is already so much that needs to be done with the money that was being wasted. We need to stop costing every single case and start assessing the real needs for care. The managers are bound up inside the internal market without being able to get out to the GPs and find out what they need.

"They should be out there working for public health and not just pushing paper around. We still need them in a different role and I don't think we should be anticipating any savings just by changing the way the system works."

The changes would, however, replace competition with co-operation. "It will no longer, thank God, be a purchaser-provider mechanism," he said.

Plans to close London hospitals have been frozen by the Government pending a review of the capital's health needs. The move means at least a temporary reprieve for St Bartholomew's and Guy's, both of which were to be phased out under the Tory Government's strategy to reorganise London's health services. Tony Blair made a pre-election promise to halt the closures and yesterday Frank Dobson took the first step towards honouring the pledge.

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صورة من الأصل

Tobacco firms plan ways to counter advertising ban

Designer clothing, luxury goods and a database of *smokers' addresses are among* the alternative methods for promoting cigarettes, writes Dominic Kennedy

TOBACCO companies have compiled databases of millions of smokers so that they *can use mailshots* to promote cigarettes if the new Government fulfils its promise to ban print and poster advertising.

The firms are already relying on alternative promotion campaigns. They are seeking to improve their image among certain groups, such as the young, by creating labels of clothing and luxury goods.

Tobacco companies have had long practice at outwitting health officials since Norway banned advertising in 1975. There are bans in the rest of Scandinavia, as well as France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and California.

The Government has yet to say whether it will outlaw sports sponsorship by cigarette firms. Several sporting *authorities* are expected to lobby the Department of National *Heritage and* argue against banning sponsorship worth £8 *million* each year.

Labour's election victory could lead to a *European* Union-wide ban on tobacco advertising; Britain has been one of the states opposing a draft EU directive which would drastically curb promotions.

The cigarette companies began preparing for restrictions on advertising some years ago, when Labour established a big lead in the opinion polls, and have reduced their reliance on poster sites. They have huge databases of smokers who can be tempted with free samples, discounts, competitions *and lifestyle magazines*. This is legal provided *that the smokers are over 18*. Names and addresses have been collected by holding competitions, with prizes such as cars or foreign holidays, with entry forms that ask whether contestants are smokers. The names and addresses of people who send off for gifts after collecting coupons are entered on the databases.

Marlboro and Silk Cut send smokers lifestyle magazines aimed at those in their early twenties. When Norway *banned smoking advertisements*, Camel began selling *boots using its brand name*, with images of the healthy-looking outdoor types traditionally used to promote cigarettes. Marlboro now has a fashion store in Covent Garden and Dunhill has a range of luxury goods.

Tobacco companies spend at least £50 million a year on advertising and promotion. That includes £25 million on magazine and newspaper advertisements as well as sports sponsorship.

Cigarette advertisements were banned from television *in Britain in 1964*. A voluntary code of practice between the manufacturers and the Department of Health has been followed since 1971 and is occasionally updated.

There have been agreements to stop pipe and cigar advertisements on television, to stop cinema advertising, and to display posters a certain distance from schools.

The tobacco companies agreed *in 1985* to freeze the cash spent on sports sponsorship, *which includes* pastimes such as angling as well as the World *Snooker* Championship. Embassy has put £11 million into snooker over the years. Some sports such as football, swimming and athletics refuse tobacco money.

The Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, which has expertly lobbied against Private Members' Bills to ban advertising, has little idea of the views of many of the new MPs elected in Labour's landslide. One of tobacco's doughtiest parliamentary champions, *the Conservative MP* John Carlisle, retired at the *election and joined the lobby* organisation on May 1.

One million women to be recruited in HRT study

By Emma Wilkins

ONE million women are being asked to take part in a study of hormone replacement therapy. The five-year project, which may become the world's largest on HRT and women's health, aims to answer questions *about links between the* treatment and breast cancer *and heart disease*.

The study was launched yesterday by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the NHS Breast Screening Programme. Women attending 100 breast-screening clinics throughout the country will be invited to complete a questionnaire about health, lifestyle and reproductive history.

HRT, which helps to alleviate some symptoms of the menopause and protects against osteoporosis by increasing oestrogen levels, was developed in 1940 in the *United States and introduced* to Britain in the late 1940s. Half of women aged 50 to 64 who now attend breast screening have used HRT at some time. Proponents include the MP Teresa Gorman and the actress Kate O'Mara.

There are 15 main manufacturers producing 40 types of HRT, either oestrogen-only or oestrogen and progesterone mixed, in pill, patch and cream form. The ingredients are synthetic or made from the urine of mares, specially farmed in Canada.

Researchers will examine whether taking HRT affects the ability of mammography to detect breast cancer. Medical opinion suggests that it *may lead to cancers being* missed. Dr Emily Banks, an epidemiologist working on the study, said: "In postmenopausal women the breast tissue is much less dense than in younger women, making it relatively easy to detect a lump on a mammogram. However, one of the effects of HRT is to keep the breast tissue denser for longer." The study will also seek to confirm whether HRT provides protection against heart disease.

Dr Banks said doctors knew relatively little about the long-*term side-effects. "If someone* is really suffering from immediate symptoms, then I think HRT is a very good treatment. The problem lies in its uses in the longer term: we just don't know whether the advantages *of protection* against certain conditions outweigh the risks of others. That's why we need this study so urgently."

Professor Valerie Beral, who is co-ordinating the study, said British women were uniquely placed to add to the sum of knowledge about *HRT*. "*Britain is the only* country that can carry out this *study because it is the only one* with the combination of a large population and a comprehensive national breast-screening programme. This is knowledge that the women of Britain can give to the world."

The study has already started in several clinics, where the response rate indicates that 250,000 women will have been recruited by the end of the year.

CHRIS HARRIS

Screen test: from left, Professor Beral, Dr Banks and Julietta Patnick, NHS breast-screening co-ordinator

Little fidgets are a sign of health

INFANTS who fidget less than their peers are more *likely to need urgent treatment* for brain damage, according to *new* evidence from scientists (Nick Nuttall writes).

The discovery, by Austrian scientists based at the University of Graz, could lead to the early detection of children at risk.

The team videotaped 130 infants born at five hospitals in Austria, Italy, The Netherlands and Germany during *their first two years of life*. They were monitored for *normal writhing movements*, which are seen from birth to about nine weeks, and fidgety movements, which commence at six weeks.

Normal fidgeting was classed as a stream of small movements with the neck, body and arms moving in all directions. The researchers found that 96 per cent, or 67 *out of 70 babies classified as* having normal fidgety move*ments, developed into infants* with normal brains. But 95 per cent, or 57 out of 60 other babies classified as having no fidgety movements, or ones of poor quality, were eventually found to have brain abnormalities.

The scientists, whose findings are published in *The Lancet* this week, say: "Our technique is simple, non-intrusive, reliable, quick and can be done in very young infants."

Headaches may spoil pleasure of ice-cream lovers

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

IT MAY *not* be evident from the way the loving couple in the Häagen-Dazs advertisements intertwine, but eating ice-cream is likely to give you a headache.

A survey in today's *British Medical Journal* found that one person in three *endured head pain* after eating ice-cream. It occurred *whether or not they* suffered from migraines.

It was just as common among children, who tend to call it "brain freeze". The headache occurred only in hot weather, with attempts to provoke it in winter always failing.

The survey found that the pain begins a few seconds after rapid consumption of cold foods or drinks and peaks *in 30 to 60 seconds*. The stabbing, aching pain is *usually located in the* middle of the forehead, but it can be on one side or behind the eye. Normally it lasts for ten to 20 seconds but it can throb on for up to five minutes.

Researchers who sucked crushed ice found the site of the headache depends on where the ice-cream touches the palate. In some cases toothache occurs.

There is conflicting evidence about ice-cream's ef*fect on migraine sufferers*. One study showed that it affected more than 90 per cent of those who get migraines while another suggested it was *more common* among people who did not suffer from migraines. There was evidence that an ice-cream headache could trigger migraine.

The best way to avoid the headaches is to ensure that really cold ice-cream does *not come into contact with* the back of the palate.

"*Most people arrive at* such preventive measures without the advice of doctors," according to the report's author, Joseph Hulihan, of the neurology department at Temple University, Philadelphia. "Ice-cream abstinence is not indicated."

A hot passion for ices: the Häagen-Dazs couple

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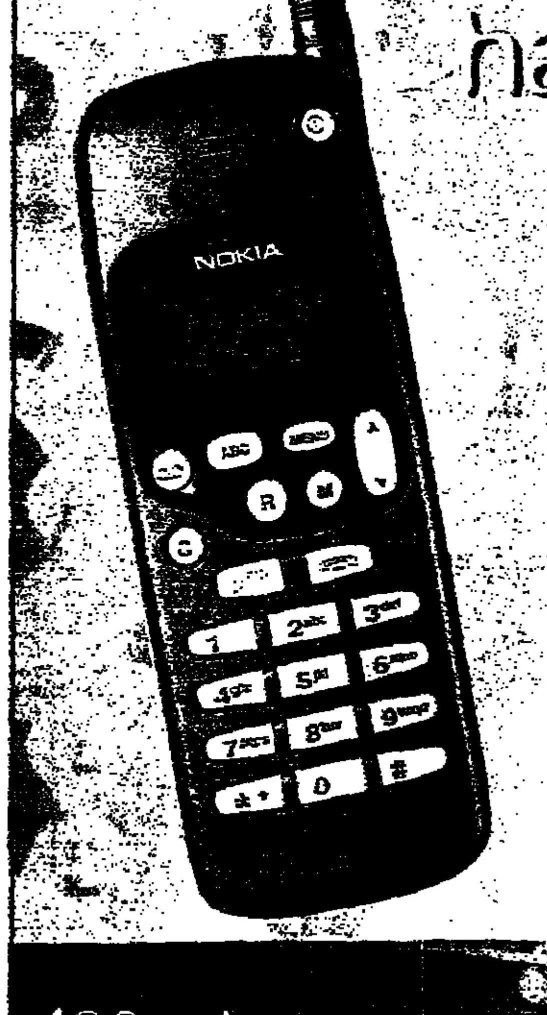
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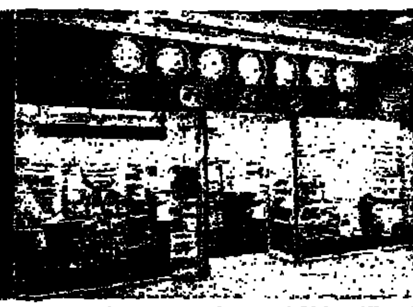

Media chief quits after 'low-budget' Tory campaign

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES LEWINGTON, one of the architects of the Tory election campaign, has abruptly resigned his £75,000-a-year job as the party's director of communications.

Mr Lewington, 38, decided to leave Conservative Central Office only days after the Tories' worse election defeat for 150 years. His decision to go came as officials acknowledged that the party's once expensively oiled fighting machine had lacked the money required for the kind of campaign envisaged by the leadership.

"Reports of a £25 million war chest were way off mark. The money simply could not be raised," one senior party official said last night. The new Labour government's proposal to ban political donations from overseas could badly hamstring the Tories' fightback.

John Redwood, one of the six leadership contenders, will today announce proposals for sweeping reforms of Central Office.

Mr Lewington, a former assistant editor of the *Sunday Express*, is on holiday and will not return to his post. He will take a two month sabbatical abroad before returning to a career in the media. He had been expected to stay on until the end of the summer, when a new Central Office regime will have been installed after the leadership election.

Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, headhunted Mr Lewington 18 months ago. In the past the job has proved to be something of a poisoned chalice. The previous director of communications, Hugh Colver, had been in post for only a few months when he walked out after rows with Dr Mawhinney over negative campaigning.

Only a handful of senior officials at Central Office knew yesterday that Mr Lewington had decided not to return to his office at the election "war room" he had set up. The campaign was marred by infighting, rows over posters and advertisements, and disputes with Kenneth Clarke over the anti-Brussels tone of some of the material.

John Major personally vetoed plans to spend millions of pounds on a last-gasp advertising campaign. A party source said: "In the past the message has been 'Better insolvent than defeated'. But not this time. It was the first election campaign we have not been able to write an open cheque."

Mr Lewington enjoyed close relations with Mr Major as Prime Minister. Communications between 10 Downing Street and Central Office had never been as good. But Mr Lewington has complained to friends that he spent 18 months fighting divisions in the Tory party rather than concentrating his fire on Labour.

Charles Lewington, whose communciations department is credited with having been one of the few successes of an election campaign marred by infighting

His contract was due to end in the summer and he was to have been asked to stay until after the leadership election. But his friends said yesterday that he had enough. "He is tired. He has done all he can. It is time to move on," said one.

The election has virtually wiped out the internal command structure of Central Office, which lost three of its vice-chairmen: Dame Angela Rumbold, Charles Hendry and Sir Graham Bright. A fourth, Sir Geoffrey Pattie, stood down.

Mr Lewington's communications department at Central Office was considered to be one of the few successes of the election campaign.

Prescott pledges to tackle car culture

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Prescott promised yesterday to curb the growth of the car culture and demanded an immediate change in Whitehall thinking to reduce traffic congestion and improve public transport.

He has ordered the environment and transport departments, which come under his supervision, to make integrated transport policy their first priority. Government statistics for the first three months of this year indicate that road traffic is still growing, continuing a trend after three years in which traffic figures stayed almost constant.

Mr Prescott will preside over a review of road-building already shelved by the Conservatives and which could be abandoned. The introduction of motorway tolls and the prospect of taxes on company car parks are among the central policies already being prepared to change public attitude towards travel.

However, there will be no "headlong rush into grand but unworkable projects". Mr Prescott, proud owner of a nine-year old Jaguar, admits that his own car sits uneasily with environmentalists' demands for smaller, fuel-efficient vehicles. However, aides emphasise that the Deputy Prime Minister is not trying to dictate the type of car people use, but is urging drivers to cut back on unnecessary use.

Dorrell calls for home rule review

BY ANDREW PIERCE

STEPHEN DORRELL became the first Tory leadership candidate to signal a major policy change yesterday when he urged a review of the party's anti-devolution stance.

In a speech to the Foreign Press Association, Mr Dorrell said that Labour's plans for a tax-raising Scottish parliament would put enormous strains on the Union. "But we must also think forward."

The Tories had to rebuild in Scotland and Wales against the background of the Government's commitment to proceed with devolved assemblies. He said that the party would have to seek election to the assemblies to ensure that its voice was heard. Otherwise, dissent would find its outlet in nationalism.

"The process of renewal of the Conservative vote in Scotland and Wales is urgent," he said. "If it is to be achieved we must ensure that the party is developing a proper Unionist response to disillusionment with Labour's assemblies."

Yesterday the Scottish Conservatives gave their clearest indication that they would be unlikely to oppose Labour's devolution plans, which already have the backing of the Liberal Democrats. Jackson Carlaw, deputy chairman of the Scottish Tories, said that it might be counter-productive to adopt a negative position in the forthcoming referendum on devolution.

Eton losing grip on government

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE playing fields of Eton are losing their centuries-old role as the training ground of government, a survey of MPs' education discloses today.

Britain's biggest-ever Parliament contains the smallest recorded number of Old Etonians as well as the lowest number of MPs educated at independent schools.

Oxford University's influence is also waning. Its representation in Parliament is at its lowest since 1945.

Just over a quarter of MPs, 27.9 per cent, went to independent schools, according to the survey for *The Times* by Colin Mellors, professor of politics at Bradford University, and Darren Darcy, a researcher. This compares with 39.6 per cent of the 1992 Parliament, 46.9 per cent in 1979 and 54.3 per cent in 1959, the postwar high. Outside the Commons, about 5 per cent of adults were educated privately.

As recently as 1970, Eton provided 10 per cent of all MPs. This time just 18 MPs, or 2.7 per cent, are Old Etonians, half the number of the previous Parliament, and less than a quarter of the total of 82, or 13.4 per cent, in 1950.

Just 59 Labour MPs, or 14.1 per cent, went to independent school, including the party's two Old Etonians: Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow) and Mark Fisher (Stoke Central).

Labour's Cabinet contains ten educated at independent schools. Professor Mellors said: "Eton, the single largest provider of the nation's governors, has slipped quite markedly. On average, from 1945-79 it educated one in ten MPs, now it is one in 25."

This Parliament is the best-educated, with graduates making up 72.5 per cent of MPs. Oxford accounts for 114 MPs, 17.3 per cent of the total, compared with 17.7 per cent in 1992. Cambridge has 69 MPs, or 10.5 per cent.

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Ministers claim their seats at the Cabinet table

The Cabinet, from left: Clare Short, Ann Taylor, Donald Dewar, Sir Robin Butler (the Cabinet Secretary), Tony Blair, John Prescott, Jack Cunningham, Chris Smith, Ron Davies, Alistair Darling, Lord Richard, Harriet Harman, George Robertson, Margaret Beckett, Jack Straw, Robin Cook, Gordon Brown, Lord Irvine of Lairg, David Blunkett, and Frank Dobson. Out of sight are Nick Brown Mo Mowlam, David Clark and Gavin Strang

By Polly Newton
Political Reporter

THIS is undoubtedly a New Labour seating plan: Tony Blair has largely adopted John Major's most recent Cabinet arrangement, but with a handful of different placements that reflect his own priorities and the seniority of individual ministers.

The Cabinet table narrows gradually towards either end so that the Prime Minister, who sits in the middle of the row that faces the window, can — in theory at least — see everybody around it without having to lean forward. John Major has described its shape as "coffin-like". The only chair with arms is the one used by the Prime Minister.

The priority is to be able easily to catch the eye of the Prime Minister during discussions, so the most prestigious seats are those directly and diagonally opposite him and the ones immediately to his left and right. The one on his right is traditionally taken by the Cabinet Secretary.

A place opposite the Prime Minister is more of a prize than one on his own side — unless the seat is one of those closest to him — because it is easier to attract his attention.

In his diaries, Richard Crossman recalled how, as Secretary of State for Social Services in Harold Wilson's Government, he once turned up late for a committee meeting being held in the Cabinet room. His usual place at the table, next to Roy Jenkins, had been taken by Denis Healey.

It made him realise how difficult it was for a minister at the end of the table on the same side as the Prime Minister to "get an oar in".

"In Cabinet the talk goes on between the PM and the Chancellor on one side and between the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Defence Secretary on the other. Those at the middle talk to each other and those at the ends of the table have to shout to be heard. There I was up beyond Burke Trend, where I used to sit as Minister of Housing . . . I had to lean right back to catch Harold's eye behind people's heads before I could get in."

On that score, the losers in Mr Blair's Cabinet include Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, who will be on the same side as the Prime Minister but three seats to the left. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, will be on the side facing the Prime Minister but almost at the end of the table on his left, whereas her predecessor, Peter Lilley, had one of the best spots next to the Foreign Secretary. That place will now be taken by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment. The move represents a "promotion" for education: his predecessor, Gillian Shephard, was on the same side as the Prime Minister and four seats to the right.

In Mr Blair's Cabinet, as in Mr Major's, the Deputy Prime Minister sits on the Prime Minister's left and the Chancellor faces the Prime Minister. But the places on either side of the Chancellor have been switched so that the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, will sit to the right of Gordon Brown and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will sit to his left.

That means that Lord Irvine will sit diagonally opposite the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar. The two men were once close friends, but did not speak for many years after Mr Dewar's wife left him for Lord Irvine. Now they will struggle to avoid each other's gaze.

Under Mr Major, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, was on the opposite side to the Prime Minister's far left. The new position for Mr Dewar, next but one to the right of Blair, is a reflection of both his personal seniority and the importance the Prime Minister attaches to Labour's plans for Scotland.

Another to benefit from his long experience is Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, whose seat is immediately to the left of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. Normally agriculture is a low-ranking department and under Mr Major, Douglas Hogg sat to the right next to the civil servants who take the minutes.

The seat now taken by Mr Cunningham was that of the Lord President of the Council, Tony Newton, who at one stage sat immediately to the left of the Prime Minister but moved along one place after Michael Heseltine became Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Newton's successor, Ann Taylor, will sit three places to the right of the Prime Minister.

Hello everyone, just call me Tony

By Damian Whitworth

WHATEVER acrimony may lie ahead Tony Blair has started out in government with the chummiest Cabinet anyone can remember. In a dramatic break with the formality of his predecessors he announced at his first Cabinet meeting yesterday that his colleagues were to address each other by their first names.

The decision may have been born of pragmatism rather than egalitarianism. After such a long time in opposition Labour has found being in government a little bewildering.

Even Mr Blair has been confused. Told that the Deputy Prime Minister wanted to see him he was puzzled as to what Michael Heseltine wanted, he confessed to the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr Blair's biggest problem will be separating his two Jacks sitting round the Cabinet table and dealing with seven Johns in ministerial posts, including his deputy John Prescott.

Alternatively, the Government could lapse into schoolyard-like use of nicknames. John Prescott is somtimes known Prezza to his friends or Giovanni to barracking Tories in reference to his days as a waiter. Mo Mowlam is known as Dr Mo and Frank Dobson is Dobbo.

According to a Downing Street source, Mr Blair was careful to specify that Cabinet members should address each other with the names by which they had always known each other. He allowed for lapses into formality but the future could lie in pet names or worse.

Portillo, Rifkind and Forsyth on shortlist for party chairmanship

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

A SWIFT route back to top-flight politics is being mapped out for Michael Portillo, Malcolm Rifkind or Michael Forsyth, three of the Cabinet ministers who lost their seats in the Conservative general election disaster.

Influential Tory figures are proposing that one of the three should be appointed Tory chairman to begin the task of rebuilding the party, its organisation and its morale after one of the worst results in its history.

The party chairman does not have to be a member of the Cabinet or even an MP. Given the extent of the election defeat, which followed years of decline in the party's local government base, senior Conservatives believe there would be advantages in appointing a leading figure who could put all his energies into running the party rather than being bogged down with Opposition duties in the Commons.

With the Shadow team already depleted by the huge number of ministerial losses, sources would regard the appointment of one of the three as good use of the talents available to the party. The current chairman, Brian Mawhinney, is expected to be given a leading role in the new Shadow Cabinet.

Senior ministers hope to persuade John Major's successor as party leader to break with recent tradition and appoint a chairman from outside Parliament. He or she could not be a formal member of the Shadow Cabinet, but would be allowed to attend meetings when discussions about party affairs were taking place.

In spite of their immediate despair at their defeat last week, Mr Portillo, Mr Rifkind and Mr Forysth have indicated to friends that they still regard themselves as political players and are not yet ready to move over to the House of Lords.

All are expected to stand again at the next election, or possibly before then in a by-election, although they are not expected to be in the running for the first by-election of the Parliament, caused by the sudden death yesterday of Sir Michael Shersby. Sir Michael held his seat in Uxbridge, west London, by 724 votes at the election last week.

The chairmanship proposal, put forward by well-placed sources at the top level of the Opposition, could find favour with the contenders for Mr Major's position, although they are likely to avoid committing themselves to appointments in advance.

The names of all three former Cabinet ministers are being discussed in senior Opposition circles.

Mr Forsyth, a former chairman of the Tory party in Scotland who has a strong reputation as an organiser, is the marginal favourite.

Four other Cabinet ministers lost their seats at the election: William Waldegrave, Tony Newton, Roger Freeman and Ian Lang.

Daniel Johnson, page 20
Letters, page 21
Obituary, page 23

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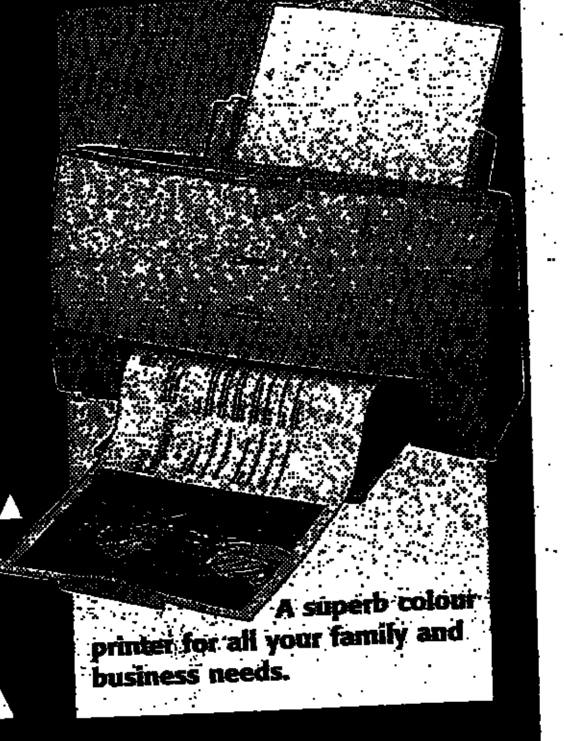

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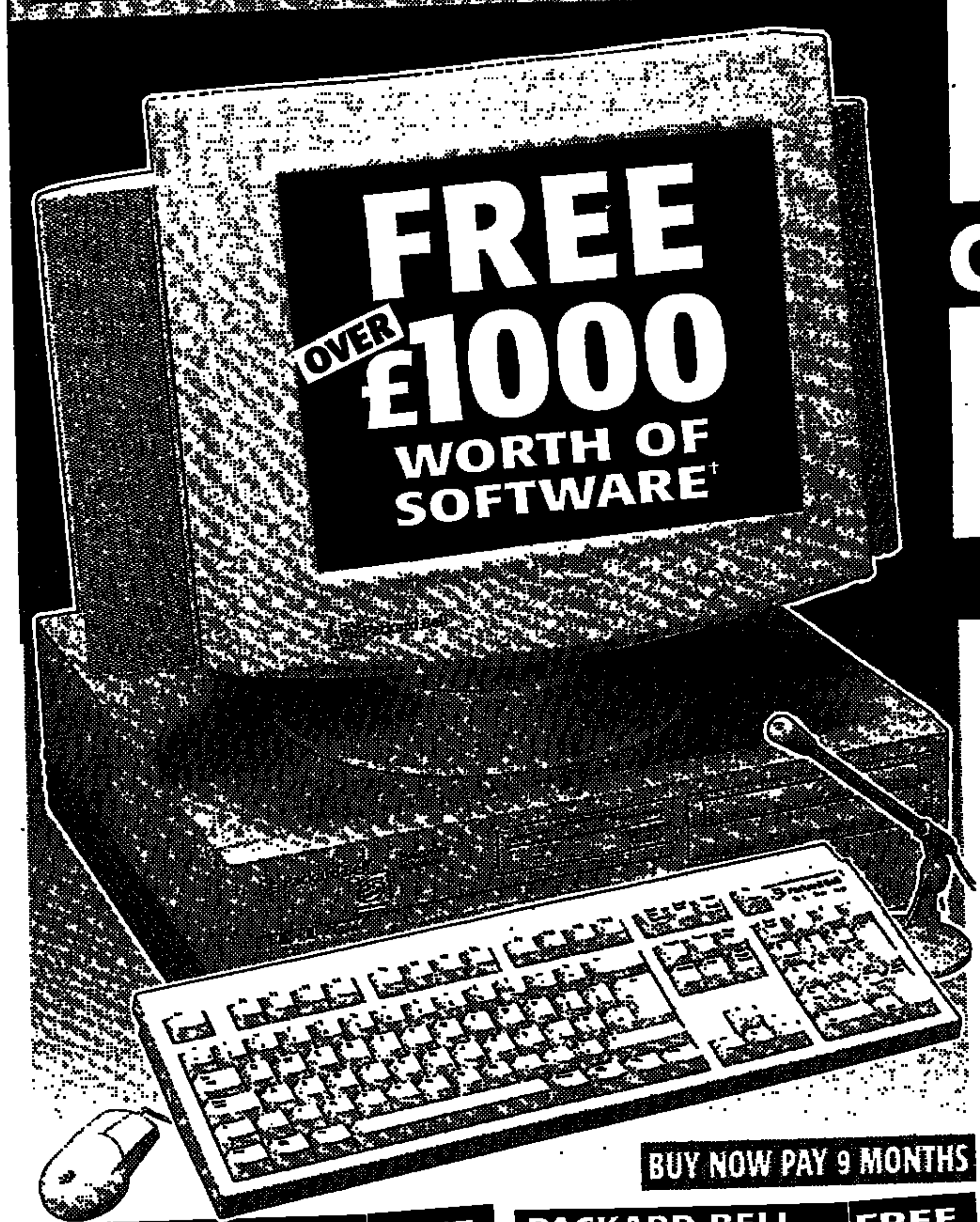

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Bacon film hit by dispute over who owns artist's words

Dalya Alberge

in Cannes reports on a copyright wrangle over Francis Bacon's spoken phrases

A FILM being made about the artist Francis Bacon, starring Derek Jacobi, may be halted by the administrators of his estate. The film's director says they are claiming ownership not only of his images but also of his spoken words.

Bacon, widely considered to be the greatest British artist since Turner, died in 1992, aged 82. Filming has begun in east London on *Love is the Devil*, which is being publicised at the Cannes Film Festival by the British Film Institute.

John Maybury, the director, said that a year ago he showed a draft of the screenplay to the estate administrators, who objected to the entire script. "They claimed they owned everything in the script, meaning all my creative writing. They were saying you can't use them [Bacon's words]."

Maybury said the administrators — his lover John Edwards and the Marlborough Gallery in central London, which was the artist's dealer — told him that he would be taking a risk if he went ahead with the project. The director is receiving legal advice from the BFI, which is co-producing the film with the BBC.

Ben Gibson, the head of BFI production and executive producer of *Love is the Devil*, said: "We are about to have a meeting with the estate's lawyers on Monday. They have no grounds for an injunction. The estate has never been keen on the project. They have seen the script, and dialogue has begun."

The estate administrators have asked to see the finished screenplay. Much of it is based on interviews with Daniel Farson, Bacon's friend and biographer. He owns the copyright to the interviews and is an adviser to the film. He removed direct quotes the artist had made to another interviewer.

A British copyright expert said yesterday that Bacon's literary and artistic works were protected by copyright, but not his casual conversations.

Robin Fry, a partner with the solicitors Stephens Innocent, of central London, which specialises in intellectual property law, said: "There is no copyright in a life, only in artistic works for 70 years after death. So the film-makers would have to have the consent of the Bacon estate to use imagery depicting his works in a film, as was the case with the recent film about Picasso."

When it came to spoken words, there was no copyright in short sentences, he said. Public lectures, prepared talks or long discourses on a particular subject might be protected in the same way as literary works.

"So, if you listen to a prepared speech and write it down, then the copyright is still with the author. The same applies if Daniel Farson had asked Bacon his views on various matters and Bacon had held forth for some time without any interruption."

Interviews were a moot point. "But if the film script is based on Farson's recollection of what Bacon said, rather than specific tape recordings in which Bacon sat down and extemporised or dictated his views, then I would say these were not protected."

Mr Fry added that such legal disputes were generally not about copyright but about censorship. "What they usually represent is the wish of one person to protect a reputation, or the views of one person of another's life."

Maybury, whose *Remembrance of Things Fast* was acclaimed at the Berlin Film Festival in 1994, said that, while other film biographies had attempted to rewrite history, his script did not. "This is the first film about Bacon. I really don't think it will be the last. He is far too significant to be left untouched."

The film focuses on the 1960s and 1970s and the turbulent relationship between Bacon and his lover George Dyer, who committed suicide on the eve of Bacon's triumphant retrospective at the Grand Palais in Paris. Maybury emphasised that it was not a gay film and that there were no raunchy sex scenes.

Nobody from the Marlborough Gallery was available for comment.

GRAHAM WOOD

JORGE LEON

Celluloid portrait of the artist: scenes from the life of Francis Bacon, left, are being shot in east London with Derek Jacobi as the painter

Fans block road for view of The Maestro

THOUSANDS of Michael Jackson fans blocked the palm-lined Croisette in Cannes yesterday, stopping traffic and trampling through flowerbeds to get the briefest glimpse of the pop star at his hotel window.

He had flown in to Cannes for the premiere of a 20-minute film called *Ghosts* and was immediately whisked to the Carlton hotel. From time to time, he emerged from an upper floor to wave to his fans.

One young man from Grenoble, Philippe Labartino, said "It's a kind of a dream. We need a dream." He came to Cannes just to stargaze; his hunt the day before lasted four hours but earned him sightings of Bruce Willis and Isabelle Adjani.

Another fan, Sylvie Berneval, from Paris, was prepared to wait three hours for Jackson. Seeing him twice yesterday was not enough; she stayed put, despite being jostled by the crowds. "He was dressed in black with a red mask on his face,' she said.

***Ghosts* is co-produced by Jackson and directed by Stan Winston, who worked on *Aliens*. The story plays on past controversies involving Jackson: a mob of angry parents, led by the Mayor of Normal Valley, make their way to an eerie mansion to confront the "mysterious occupant". The Maestro, "who has been entertaining their kids in a frightening fashion that they don't quite understand". Jackson plays five roles, including The Maestro.**

Jackson album, page 35

Oldman censors his X-rated life for debut script

Oldman yesterday: "Most people need therapy"

THE actor Gary Oldman spoke yesterday of the personal experiences of violence, drugs and alcohol that compelled him to write his first film script. *Nil by Mouth*, a harrowing story of social decay, had its European premiere yesterday at the Cannes Film Festival and is tipped to win prizes.

Oldman looked close to tears as he said that writing the script had helped him to come to terms with his childhood in south London, which was overshadowed by poverty and his violent, alcoholic father. Oldman himself has undergone treatment for addiction to drink. "The sins of the father are visited on the son," he said. "We are a lot sicker than we think we are. Most people need therapy."

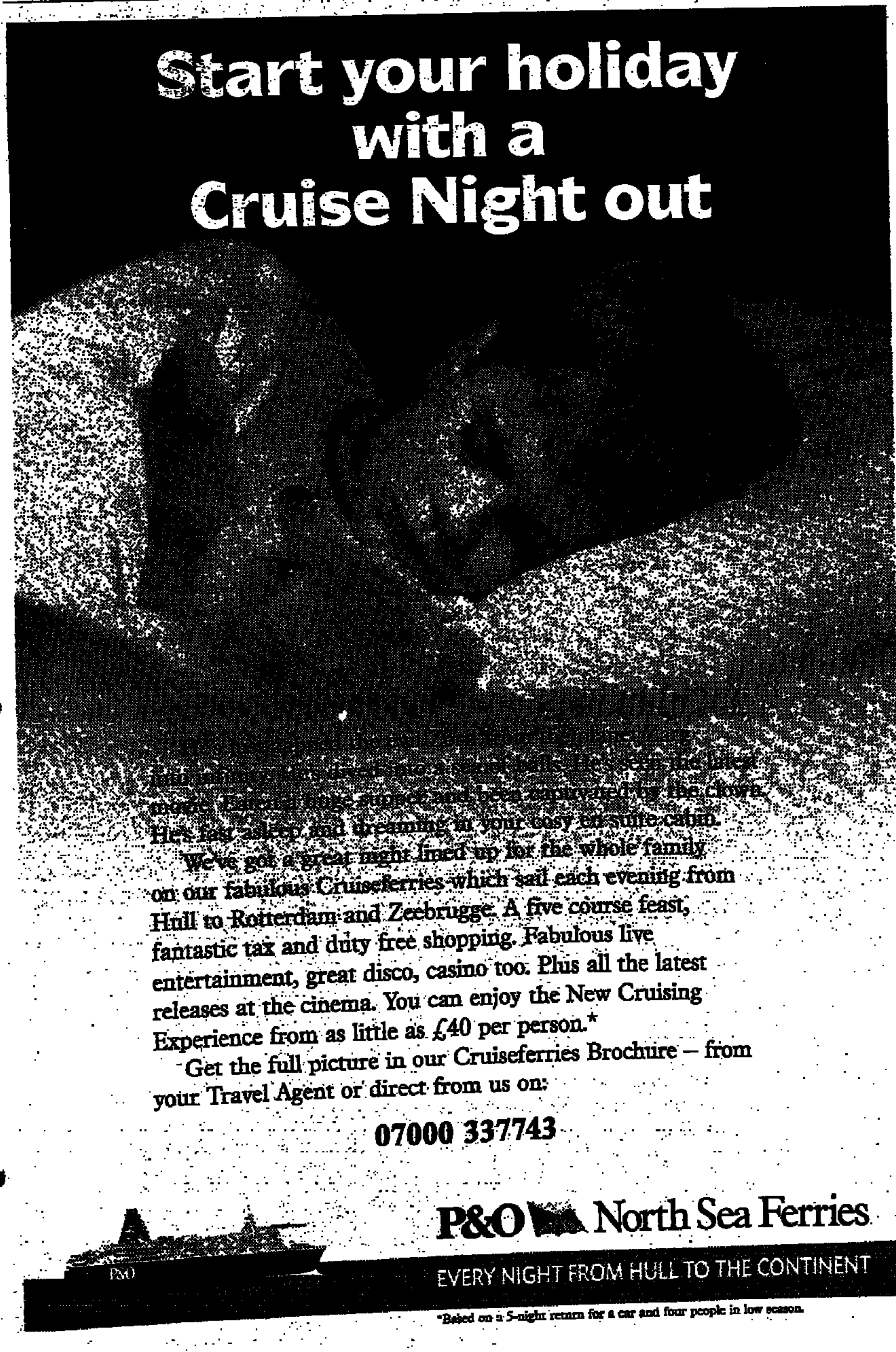
The film is also the directorial debut of the 39-year-old actor, renowned for performances including President Kennedy's assassin in *JFK* and a deranged drug dealer in *True Romance*.

Oldman said that some of his childhood had been too disturbing to depict in *Nil by Mouth*. He could not put on screen the moment his father beat his mother with a steel-toed boot before trying to drown her, he said, but "I watched it all".

He considered shooting the film in black and white, but wanted to avoid any hint of nostalgia. "I didn't want it clean and too pretty. I wanted it how I remembered it: grey. The sun never shone. If the sun came out, I didn't shoot. I said, 'I do not want the sun in this movie.'"

Oldman described the characters as an amalgam of those in real life: among them his father, who "destroyed his liver" after years of drinking whisky from 9.30am to late at night, his nephew and his brother-in-law. Oldman said: "They've seen the film and were very moved. It's from my heart. I hope I've not disgraced them."

He described his mother as an heroic woman, who took two jobs — one as a pub singer — to support the family after his father left home. The film includes a recording of her singing a song from the musical *Showboat*. "She sang it at my wedding," Oldman said.



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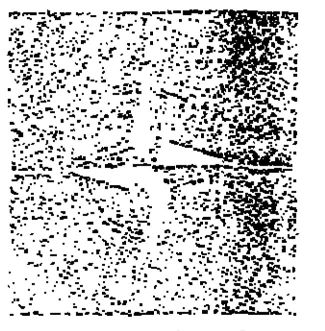
Yeltsin compares Nato expansion to Cuba missile crisis

BY ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



PRESIDENT YELTSIN issued a warning yesterday that Nato's plans to expand eastwards had provoked the most serious dispute between Russia and the United States since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

He said on Russian television: "Since the Cuban crisis, no such acute an issue has existed in relations between Russia and the United States, and this concerns Russia's interests to such an extent that everyone, including the Europeans and Americans, should give it serious thought."

During the Cuban missile crisis, Soviet nuclear brinkmanship caused the world to hold its breath, as President Kennedy battled with Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Communist leader, to prevent Moscow from installing nuclear missiles on the island.

Western diplomatic sources said that the Russian leader was resorting to strong rhetoric to appease his political opponents. He is under pressure from Communists and nationalists who argue that he is selling out his country's interests.

President Yeltsin's comparison with 1962 precedes next week's crucial meeting between Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, to try to agree a special security charter between Moscow and the West.

The President's remarks were also seen as part of Moscow's attempts to gain last-minute concessions on the proposed agrrement between Russia and the alliance, which both sides want signed before the Nato summit in Madrid in July, when Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary will be invited to join the organisation.

As if to confirm his twin-track approach of berating the West over Nato expansion plans and reaching a deal on a security partnership with the alliance, Mr Yeltsin said that an agreement with Nato was nearly ready. He told reporters at a Victory Day ceremony in the Kremlin that he might join the talks in Moscow next week between Mr Primakov and Señor Solana. "About 98 per cent of the document is ready," Mr Yeltsin said.

Nato sources said that although a deal with Russia was "very close", and should be ready in time for a summit in Paris at the end of this month, final agreement was being held up by Moscow's attempts to stop the alliance from constructing any form of military infrastructure on the territory of new member states. The sources said a number of compromises were being discussed with the Russians. There was no question of Nato agreeing to abandon plans to create basic infrastructure on the territory of the new Eastern European members. One compromise under discussion, however, was to make "a written declaration that Nato has no plans for major construction of new bases". This would be aimed at reassuring Moscow that Nato did not intend to build bunkers for tactical nuclear missiles or new garrisons for the permanent stationing of alliance troops.

Nato has already included in the draft text of an agreement a declaration that it has "no intention, no plans and no eason for deploying nuclear weapons" on the territory of the new member states.

If the negotiations in Moscow on Tuesday are successful, a "Nato-Russia Act", laying down the new strategic partnership between the alliance and Moscow, will be signed in Paris on May 27 by Nato's 16 heads of government and Mr Yeltsin.

However, opposition leaders in Russia have denounced the proposed agreement and have condemned Mr Yeltsin's Government. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, said: "They have lost on every front. They are trying to fool the country and ignoring the national interest."

As a counter to Nato's expansion plans, Russia has been trying to improve relations with former Soviet republics. Negotiations are under way for economic and political union with Belarus and yesterday President Yeltsin presided over the signing of a peace memorandum between Moldova and its breakaway Russian-majority region of Transdnestr.

CHRISTINE GRUNNET / REUTER

President Chirac, at an Armistice Day ceremony yesterday, launched a forceful electoral attack on France's Socialist opposition. He has taken to using many of the familiar Blairite phrases invoking "trust" and "hope"

Blair wins French politicians' vote

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE cult of Tony Blair in France, where politicians of all shades are competing to make electoral capital out of Labour's landslide victory, reached unprecedented levels yesterday when the British Prime Minister made it to the front cover of one of France's premier celebrity magazines.

VSD, a glamour journal more used to fêting the likes of Gérard Depardieu and Juliette Binoche, featured the Blairs *en famille* alongside the headline "The Blair Revolution: Why his style makes Juppé and Jospin dream". It was the first time in living memory that a British Prime Minister has been accorded such an honour.

Mr Blair's thumping success is the most interesting thing to have happened so far to the French legislative elections, which have been widely dismissed as lacklustre and unnecessary. Both Alain Juppé, the Gaullist Prime Minister, and Lionel Jospin, leader of the Socialist Party, have been quick to profess ideological kinship with Mr Blair.

In a long article published this week, M Jospin insisted "the victory of the Socialist Party in France in three weeks' time, coming after that of Labour, will prove that there exists between us a 'Modern Left'. The future of Europe will be changed by it."

M Juppé's centre-right coalition, however, has pointed out that new Labour is genuinely modern, having abandoned the Socialist principles still held dear by many on the French Left. "It is true that [President] Chirac's slogan 'Less government, less taxes', might as well be Tony Blair's," noted an editorial in *Le Nouvel Observateur* magazine. A cartoon in *Le Monde* showed not only M Juppé and M Jospin, but also President Chirac declaring simultaneously *"C'est moi, Tony Blair"* — Tony Blair, that's me.

But, as has become only too clear since M Chirac announced the snap election in two rounds for May 25 and June 1, none of them is Mr Blair, at least not in the sense of being able to galvanise a disgruntled elctorate. Up to half of French voters, according to the latest polls, are resolutely uneathused by the election campaign.

Toll mounts in China air crash

Beijing: A China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 crash-landed during stormy weather in the southern city of Shenzhen, killing at least 10 people and injuring 20, local officials said. The airliner was on a scheduled flight from the southwestern city of Chongqing to Shenzhen, a booming city on China's border with Hong Kong.

The cause of the crash, the first reported in China for almost three years, was unclear, but one airline official said the landing altitude of the plane was wrong. The airliner burst into flames on hitting the tarmac. The death toll was expected to rise. Ambulances ferried dead and injured passengers from the airport to hospital. *(Reuter)*

Circus tiger kills

Carrolltown, Pennsylvania: A 400lb Bengal tiger pounced on its trainer in front of a circus audience of at least 200 children and their families, killing him and dragging him round the ring by his neck. *(AP)*

Suicide plunge

Seoul: The 26-year-old wife of a defector from North Korea jumped to her death from an eighth-floor flat, her six-month-old baby in her arms, in an apparent suicide, South Korean reports said. *(AFP)*

Bullet proof

York, Pennsylvania: Michael Hughes, 30, who was shot as he tried to burgle a house, sat on his front porch with a bullet between his eyes waiting until police arrived, authorities said. *(AP)*

Blast victims

Istanbul: One child was killed and four were hurt as a bomb they found on an army shooting range in Turkey's eastern province of Erzurum exploded when they took it home, security officials said. *(Reuter)*

Gandhi joins up

Delhi: Sonia Gandhi, 50, the Italian-born widow of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, has joined his Congress party. Since his assassination in 1991, she had refused to enter politics. *(Reuter)*

President lays stone for church rebuilding

BY RICHARD BEESTON

A SOLEMN and devout-looking President Yeltsin yesterday laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction of an ancient Moscow church that was destroyed by Stalin.

The ceremony marked the latest in a series of efforts by Russia's leadership to restore religious monuments wrecked by the Communists. Patriarch Aleksi, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, led prayers at the site of the future chapel of St Boris and St Gleb, the first Russian saints.

"In the past, more than ten Orthodox churches used to stand here in Arbat Square and they are well-remembered by Moscow believers," he said, adding: "May God grant all people of the present and future generations memory of such places."

The first church dedicated to the saints was built on the same spot in 1483 but was levelled on Stalin's orders in 1930 as part of his attempts to wipe religious symbols from the Moscow landscape.

Mr Yeltsin, whose grandsons are name Gleb and Boris, emphasised in his address that the rebuilding work lay at the heart of his attempts to reconcile modern Russia with its past. "The revival of holy shrines is the mark of our times," he said. "It is deeply symbolic that the consecration ... is taking place in a year which has been proclaimed a year of reconciliation and concord in Russia," he added.

President Yeltsin at the ceremony yesterday

Finance police seize £500m from 'hard-up' Sicilian Mafia suspect

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN PALERMO

SICILIAN finance police yesterday seized property and assets worth well over £500 million from a suspected Mafia boss, the largest such haul since the crackdown on organised crime began four years ago.

Police said Vincenzo Piazza, 66, a building tycoon long suspected of being a highly placed figure in the Mafia, had acquired a business, land and property empire of "dizzying" proportions. He was arrested in 1994 and is still in prison awaiting trial on charges of involvement in Mafia operations. Police said it had taken them the three years since Signor Piazza's arrest to trace all his holdings.

The confiscated "assets" include 64 palaces, containing 2,500 offices; 122 warehouses; thousands of acres of agricultural land; factories and industrial units; 131 flats; £5 million of shares in a bank at Trapani; ten villas; ten school buildings; and a large estate near Siena. Signor Piazza also owned 18 cars, two of which (plus a BMW motorbike) were given back by police because they were registered in his sons' names.

Vincenzo Visco, the Finance Minister, congratulated the Palermo police on a "brilliant operation" and described the amount confiscated as unprecedented. "It defies belief that one man should have accumulated property of such incredible proportions," he said.

Signor Piazza first came to the attention of the authorities in 1989 when he declared an annual income for tax purposes of under £1,000. "This seemed at odds with his lavish lifestyle," a police spokesman said drily. Signor Piazza was subsequently named as a Mafia boss by two leading *pentiti*, or supergrasses, Tommaso Buscetta and Calogero Ganci.

The crackdown on the Mafia began in earnest in 1992, after the murders of Giovanni Falcone, Italy's popular anti-Mafia judge, and his successor, Paolo Borsellino. In 1993, Salvator "Toto" Riina, the Mafia "boss of bosses", was arrested, and last year his successor, Giovanni Brusca, was also tracked down and jailed.

Police said they were also investigating links between Signor Piazza and Vito Ciancimino, the Christian Democratic Mayor of Palermo in the 1970s.

☐ **Suspects held:** Police in Palermo yesterday said they had arrested 11 suspected leading members of the Mafia's Corleonesi clan in what could prove a further severe blow to its supremacy in the world of organised crime. *(Reuter)*

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Angola war fear rises as tanks go to Zaire border

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

SEVERAL divisions of Angolan government troops, supported by helicopters and tanks, were last night massing along the Zaire border close to Matadi, the port which is Kinshasa's lifeline. Diplomats were concerned that the Angolans might be ordered to join the rebels of Laurent Kabila in an attack on Zaire's capital.

"If the two sides in Angola get any more involved in what is happening in Zaire then the civil war could kick off again for real in their own country," said a European ambassador. A fragile peace agreement was reached in Angola only last month.

Angolan government soldiers supported Zaire's rebels and routed forces of President Mobutu and his allies in a battle at Kenge, 125 miles east of Kinshasa. Soldiers from Jonas Savimbi's rival Union for the Total Independence of Angola have crossed from his territory in Lunda Norte province to join up with Zairean government forces.

Reports from Kenge said yesterday that Unita had adopted a "scorched-earth" policy and killed at least 200 people indiscriminately, including ten local Red Cross workers, after flying in from Dr Savimbi's territory.

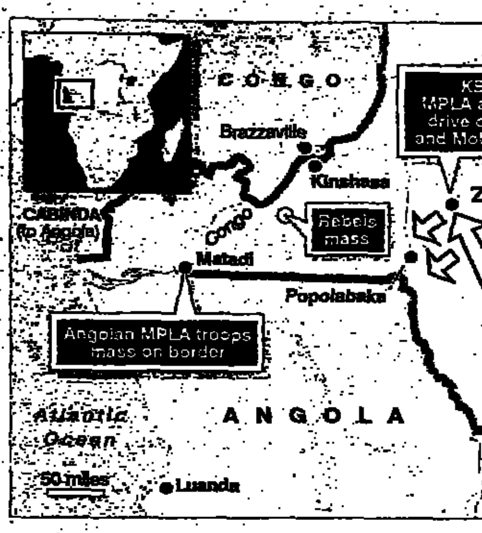
This was confirmed by members of Mr Mobutu's personal entourage, who said that Unita troops were under orders to "take no prisoners" in their efforts to hold up the rebel advance and open a corridor to Kikwit and the diamond town of Tshikapa, close to the frontier with Unita-held Angola.

Officers from the army of the former Marxist Angolan government have been seen in Kisangani, which fell to Zaire's rebels two months ago. Closer to the front line, now 80 miles from Kinshasa, sources said that Angolan government engineers were helping the rebels cross bridges blown over the River Wamba and were also in command of armoured vehicles.

President dos Santos of Angola is close to Mr Kabila and a sworn enemy of Mr Mobutu, who gave logistical support to Unita for 18 years. Yesterday Mr Mobutu, 66, met the Presidents of Congo, Gabon and the Central African Republic in Libreville amid continued speculation that he would not return to Zaire, and would end his 32-year rule by fleeing into exile.

As a man whose power over the past ten years has derived from his ability to wreck opposition movements by unleashing his own troops to loot and destroy Kinshasa, Mr Mobutu is more likely to enjoy the spectacle of a conflagration in the capital.

☐ **London:** Five hundred British troops and support personnel are ready to launch an evacuation from Zaire, the Foreign Office reported. It estimated 970 Britons, Commonwealth and European citizens might have to leave.



CORINNE DUFKA / REUTER

A mother and baby wait for food at a Catholic clinic in Kinshasa yesterday as the rebel advance continued

Israel claims use of force justified on terror suspects

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday defended its use of force on terrorist suspects, claiming the practice was justified for security forces having to deal with bombings and kidnappings.

The response came after Wednesday's examination of Israel's interrogation techniques by the United Nations Committee Against Torture, whose members questioned whether severe shaking of prisoners and subjecting them to long periods of loud music, cold air and being tied up in painful positions amounted to torture.

More than 20 Palestinians have died in Israeli prisons since 1987. Last November the Israeli Supreme Court lifted an injunction against the use of force in the interrogation of Palestinian detainees in certain cases, including potential suicide attacks. Since then, critics have accused Israel of approving torture during investigations.

Moshe Fogel, a spokesman for the right-wing Government, said last night that Israel had foiled 90 planned attacks, including ten suicide bombings in a two-year period ending last December. "These were the result of questioning suspected terrorists during that period," Mr Fogel said.

During the UN session in Geneva, where Israel is one of a number of countries whose conduct is reviewed periodically, Peter Thomas Burns, the committee member specialising in Israel, said that the country seemed to think that standards of treatment for detainees could be modified depending on circumstances, while the standards of the Convention Against Torture were absolute.

Mr Fogel said that the committee's report was biased and failed to take into account "the fact that Israel lives in constant threat of terrorism".

☐ **House seized:** Jewish settlers yesterday took over a newly acquired house on the Mount of Olives in occupied east Jerusalem in a move that infuriated Palestinians. The house was sold by an Armenian archbishop.

Jews honour Swiss guard who blew whistle on bank

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A TIMID Swiss nightwatchman who saved Holocaust-era ledgers from a shredder at his Zurich office has been embraced as a hero by America's powerful Jewish community.

Offers of jobs, homes and money have poured in for Christoph Meili, 28, ever since he flew in to New York this week under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress.

Mr Meili's story began in January when, on his nightly rounds as a guard at the Union Bank of Switzerland, he stumbled upon dustbins filled with ledgers, letters and statements of account in the bank's shredding room. On closer examination, he found them to date back to the 1930s and 1940s and to pertain mainly to Jewish clients.

Speaking yesterday at a gathering here, he said: "I thought to myself: 'Wait a minute! This is historical material'." He took several armfuls of documents to his car and later passed them on to a Jewish cultural organisation in Zurich.

Mr Meili has disclosed that he was inspired to save the documents after having seen *Schindler's List*: "A few months before, I had seen the movie. And that is how, when I saw these documents, I realised I must take the responsibility, that I must do something."

The watchman, a father of two, was suspended from his job by the bank, which accused him of violating its secrecy laws. He was questioned by the Swiss police, who are believed to have handled him roughly, ostracised by friends and shunned by other prospective employers. He and his family also received a number of death threats.

The World Jewish Congress, alerted to his plight, arranged to fly him and his family to New York. He has been feted at receptions in the city and in Washington. Edgar Bronfman, the chairman of the congress and president of the Seagram company, has offered him a full-time job — as a nightwatchman.

☐ **Buenos Aires:** Under pressure from the United States and Israel, Argentina was said last night to be on the verge of naming a commission to look into its Nazi ties during and after the Second World War. A commission of key Argentinian officials and foreigners would be on the commission, according to sources, who said a formal announcement was imminent. *(AFP)*

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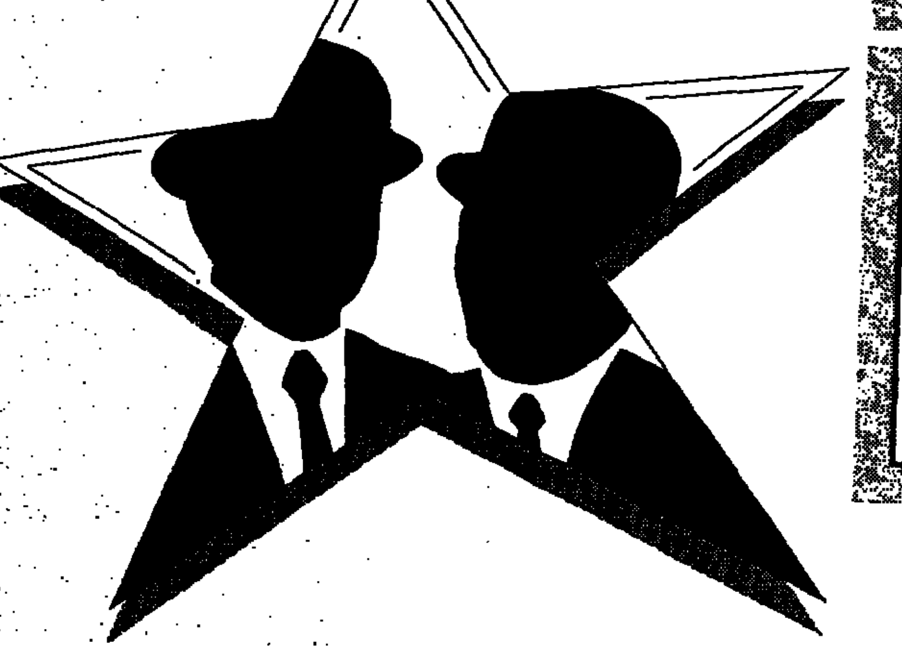

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Yemen tests wisdom of a Solomon with claim to Queen of Sheba

The Queen of Sheba: icon for tourist chiefs

Commercial hopes are adding to rival claims from both sides of the Red Sea about the origins of the beguiling biblical beauty, **Michael Binyon** reports

SHE is said to have ruled almost 3,000 years ago, but she is as bewitching to modern historians as she was to King Solomon. And she has left a legacy that has so divided two neighbours that only Solomon would be able to answer the all-important question: did the Queen of Sheba come from Yemen or Ethiopia?

Emperor Haile Selassie, the "Lion of Judah", insisted that the Queen, known in Ethiopia as Makeda, married Solomon and was a founding member of the Ethiopian royal dynasty. She is said to have lived at Axum, a site now being investigated by three teams of archaeologists who claim to have found coins, bones and other relics of her reign. The more popular and familiar claim comes from the other side of the Red Sea.

The Yemeni Government, opening up the rugged and remote country to international tourism as well as Western business and communications, insists that the legendary ruler, known in Arabic as Balkis or Bilkis, has the sanction of the Koran as well as popular support for her genealogy. Her name is now prominent in all Yemen's tourist brochures, and the main hotel in Sanaa, the capital, is named after her.

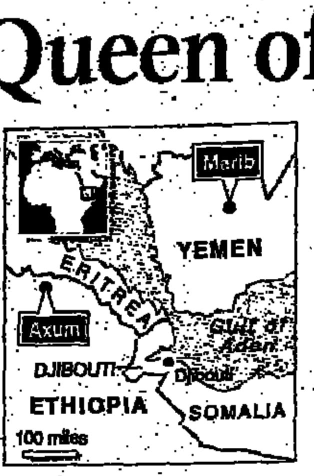
"She is certainly Yemeni. But legend states that she crossed Ethiopia on her way back from Jerusalem," Dr Hussein al-Amri, Yemen's Ambassador to London, said. He cited extensive research by two recent doyens of Arabic at Oxford and Cambridge, the late Professor Freddie Beeston and the late Professor Bob Serjeant, who spent time researching Yemeni epigraphy.

Each country advances whatever historical evidence it can. Ethiopia claims a tradition going back to Josephus, commonly accepted in Europe in the Middle Ages, that she was African. At Chartres, for example, she is shown with an African servant, and a persistent legend gives her a malformed foot — or even the hooves of an ass.

Legend says that she hid her feet in a long gown, but Solomon was said to have been so curious about this that he had a glass floor built before his throne and Bilkis, thinking that it was water, raised her skirt to cross it and revealed that her legs were hairy.

Yemen relies more on her visit to Jerusalem when she gave King Solomon gifts of gold and spices, products for which Yemen, then an important trading centre, was famous. Until recently the country, racked by civil war for almost a generation and then under various Marxist governments, would not allow in Western archaeologists; now they are arriving in droves to search for lost remains.

The Queen is mentioned little in the Bible: 11 verses in the First Book of Kings, repeated in the Second Book of Chronicles. The story is believed to come from Jewish tradition.



Ancient legend makes an enormous difference to a country's tourist potential: Egypt markets its history almost entirely in terms of King Tutankhamun and Queen Nefertiti. But so vague is the history of the 10th century BC that others are now entering the crowded field: Egypt wants her for its own, as do Iran, the United Arab Emirates and all those who have discovered ancient caravan routes through their territory.

American excavations in Yemen began in 1952, when Wendell Philips, the explorer, began investigations into the Moon Temple of Sheba at Marib, the town mentioned in the Koran as being her seat where she is said to have built an ancient dam.

Tourism has been the spur that has levered reluctant agreement by many governments for Western scholars to mount expeditions. Perhaps the most famous search is for the legendary site where Noah's Ark came to rest, reputedly on the slopes of Mount Ararat in Turkey.

Queen of Africa, page 20

Consortium woos Taleban to tap energy bonanza

From Christopher Thomas in Kandahar

AN INTERNATIONAL oil and gas consortium is renting an office in the impoverished mud city of Kandahar, headquarters of the Taleban Islamic militia. It confirms the driving force behind Afghanistan's latest war: money.

The consortium is seeking a stake in what may be the world's last land-based oil and gas bonanza. Afghanistan excites no interest in international boardrooms, but the Central Asian states to its north are a multibillion-pound prospect. They contain vast, untapped reserves of oil and gas; Afghanistan, cursed as ever by its location, is in the way.

There is a clamour by multinational corporations to build a 1,000-mile oil pipeline from Turkmenistan in Central Asia through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea, from where crude could be taken by tanker to East Asia. There are also plans for a natural gas pipeline to supply energy from Central Asia to Pakistan and, perhaps, India.

This explains the intense competition among foreign governments and multinational corporations for regional influence in this new "Great Game". The gas and oil reserves are many times larger than those of the North Sea and could transform some of the poorest economies of Asia.

The consortium's premises in Kandahar were guarded yesterday by a gunman in the garden. The building, behind high walls and a large rose garden, is a prosperous-looking haven in a street of rubble, and workmen were transforming the premises into a comparatively luxurious statement of foreign ambition. The point of moving to this almost medieval town is to remain close to Taleban in the hope of securing contracts, and to impress on the Islamic student army the need for peace before construction can begin.

Taleban, which rules three-quarters of the country, has probably received private Saudi money to help it to defeat most of the militias and fiefdoms that have kept the country at war. It is also backed by Pakistan. Both countries would benefit substantially from construction of the pipelines. Never has such a rag-tag fundamentalist militia been so vital to such powerful international economic interests.

Delta Oil, of Saudi Arabia, has entered into a partnership with Unocal, the American oil and gas giant, to build pipelines at a cost of £2.7 billion. The scheme would take three years to complete.

Rival influences, however, are determined to scuttle the project. Russia fears it would lead to foreign economic domination of a region it regards as its backyard. That partly explains why it provides military assistance to General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern Uzbek warlord and Taleban's main armed rival.

Iran, which stands to lose oil markets if the pipeline is built, also supports General Dostum. The US Administration favours the pipeline because of its potential impact on the Iranian economy. That explains its earlier public enthusiasm for Taleban, muted now because of the militia's extremist Islamic credentials.

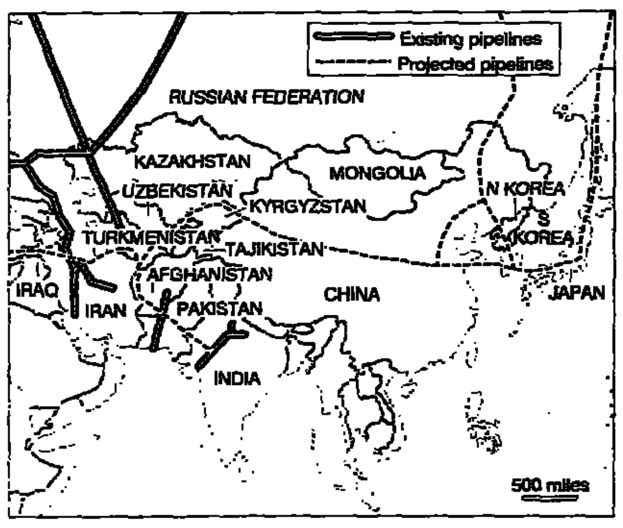
Taleban is impatient with Unocal-Delta's insistence that there can be no progress without peace. It is threatening to hand the contract to Bridas Corporation of Argentina which was originally expected to win the contract. In reality, however, neither of the rival bidders can hope to raise funds for the scheme until Afghanistan has a national, bona fide government — essentially, until General Dostum is defeated.

There are many who believe that Taleban was created three years ago by vested interests to establish peace in Afghanistan and open access to Central Asia's natural resources. It seems a far-fetched theory, but clearly the hopes of powerful foreign forces are pinned on a Taleban victory over the last of its enemies.

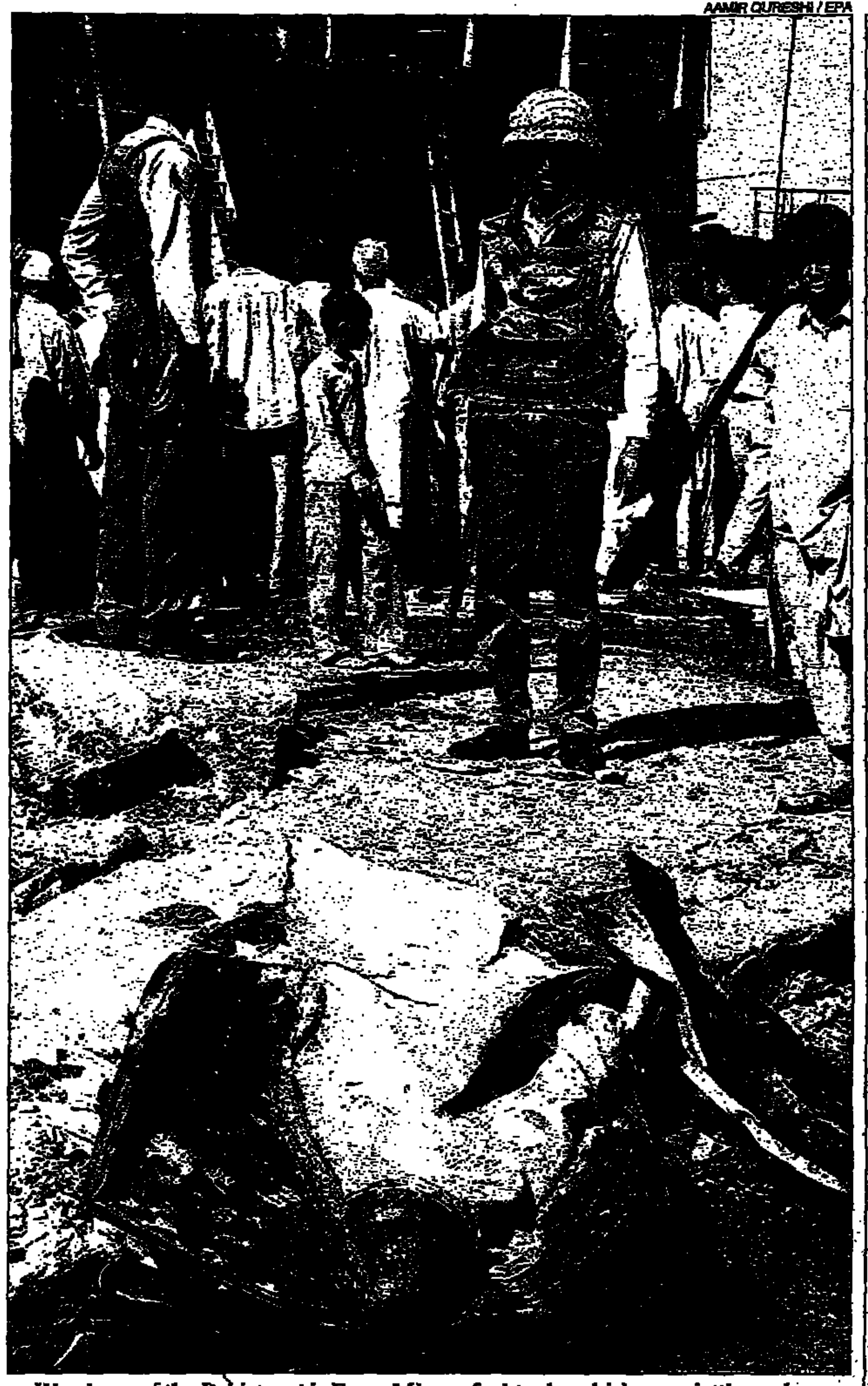
Leading article, page 21

The world will begin suffering a decline in oil production within 20 years, a leading scientist is warning (Nick Nuttall writes).

Demand for energy from rich and developing countries is accelerating so fast that oil-producing nations will not be able to keep pace by 2015, Craig Hatfield, of the University of Toledo, says in the journal *Nature*. The geologist says that discoveries are failing to keep pace with demand, which grew by 16 per cent from 1985 to 1995.



AAMIR QURESHI / EPA


Wreckage of the Pakistan Air Force Mirage fuel tanks which were jettisoned on a densely populated area of Karachi yesterday. An inquiry has been ordered

Seven die as jet discards fuel

From Reuter in Karachi

A PAKISTAN Air Force jet jettisoned its fuel tanks over a residential area of Karachi yesterday, causing a fire that killed at least seven people and injured six, police said.

The pilot of the Mirage fighter, which landed safely at an air force base, dumped the tanks after the plane developed engine trouble on a routine training flight, a military spokesman said.

Witnesses said fire broke out when one of the fuel tanks fell on Gharibabad, a heavily populated residential area in Karachi's Central District. An air force statement said that the pilot had to jettison tanks to avoid crashing on a populated area and causing a major catastrophe. It said an inquiry had been ordered. Most of the injured were in a critical condition with 50 to 60 per cent burns.

Jailing of abbot reasserts China's grip on Tibet

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

THE jailing of one of Tibet's supreme monks this week marks China's determination to dominate events in the Himalayan state. The sentencing of abbot Chadrel Rimpoche also signals an end to a brief Chinese attempt earlier this decade at a reconciliation with the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual and temporal leader.

In an announcement this week Beijing said the abbot of the Tashilumpo, one of Tibet's main monasteries and the base of the Panchen Lama, the second-highest Buddhist leader after the Dalai Lama, had been jailed on April 21 for "splitting the country", stirring up trouble among ethnic groups, leaking state secrets, and for "colluding with the Dalai Lama". He was jailed for six years.

The Dalai Lama's government-in-exile in India yesterday condemned the sentence. The abbot was arrested last year and charged, along with two monks, with giving the Dalai Lama a list of 25 names of children who could be reincarnations of the tenth Panchen Lama who died in 1989. The Dalai Lama designated one of the boys as the eleventh Panchen Lama, and soon after the child, his family and the abbot disappeared.

By trying Chadrel Rimpoche, and his two accomplices, in a court in Xigaze, where the Tashilumpo is sited, China has now put to rest charges that its enemies vanish into a gulag. But Beijing's action signals that it alone will determine Tibet's fate, in accordance with its insistence that the region has always been a part of China. In reality, its control over Tibet was negligible from the 17th century and non-existent between 1912 and 1949.

In 1964 the tenth Panchen Lama was detained for 14 years after he warned Beijing that its colonial policies were causing misery in Tibet. On his death in 1989, Tibetans mourned him as a great monk who had stood up to China.

China's subsequent determination to play a role in the arcane process of identifying the eleventh incarnation of the Panchen Lama was seen as a step towards its eventual aim of picking the successor to the present 60-year-old Dalai Lama. That move gathered pace in the early 1990s when Li Peng, the Prime Minister and a hardliner on Tibet, fell ill. Then, others in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy agreed that the legitimacy of the eleventh Panchen Lama would be enhanced among Tibetans if the Dalai Lama approved his succession.

A letter was passed to the Dalai Lama in 1993, through his brother who lives in Hong Kong, stating that the Dalai Lama's sanction for the next Panchen Lama would be sought. But when Mr Li regained his health in 1994, that attempt to co-operate with the Dalai Lama was ended.

It was then that the list of names, probably sent by the abbot, reached the Dalai Lama in India. It stipulated that Gedhum Choekyi Nyima, six, was the likely incarnation, and the Dalai Lama publicly confirmed him as the eleventh Panchen Lama, angering China. Beijing promptly found another boy on the list, Gyaincain Norbu, and in 1995 installed him as the Panchen Lama. Since then China has never referred to the Dalai Lama as a "religious leader" but only as a criminal.

Hong Kong activists to fight on

Hong Kong: Pro-democracy activists planning protests to mark the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 vowed that the handover of the colony to China would not stop future commemorations.

"We will still hold the gathering even if they ban it," Szeto Wah, a campaigner, said yesterday.

They also plan to display in a Hong Kong park a 26ft sculpture entitled the *Pillar of Shame*, by Jen Galschiot, a Danish artist, that is composed of 50 painfully twisted human bodies. *(Reuter)*

Tokyo votes to protect rights of Ainu minority

From Robert Whymant in Tokyo

AFTER a century of exploitation, Japan pledged yesterday to safeguard the human rights of the Ainu, an aboriginal people concentrated in the northernmost island of Hokkaido.

The lower house of parliament adopted a new law to protect and promote the Ainu culture and traditions, virtually destroyed by Japan's historical policy of stamping out the native heritage.

But the legislation stops short of designating the Ainu people as an aboriginal race as the ethnic minority had demanded. Japanese leaders feared that recognising them as aborigines would unleash a flood of claims for land and mineral rights. The Ainu have been systematically deprived of their land, without compensation, and pushed into small pockets of Hokkaido since the late 1880s.

According to official figures, about 25,000 Ainu now live in Hokkaido. But Ainu activists say there are twice that number, because many prefer to conceal their identity to escape discrimination.

Shigeru Kayano, Japan's first and only Ainu member of the upper house of parliament, said the new law did not satisfy his people's demand for the return of land expropriated over the centuries, but added that it was "better than nothing". The law replaces legislation enacted in 1899 which sought to wipe out Ainu culture, even restricting their right to catch salmon in Hokkaido rivers.

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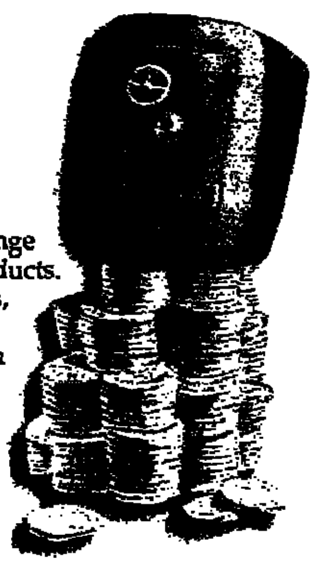

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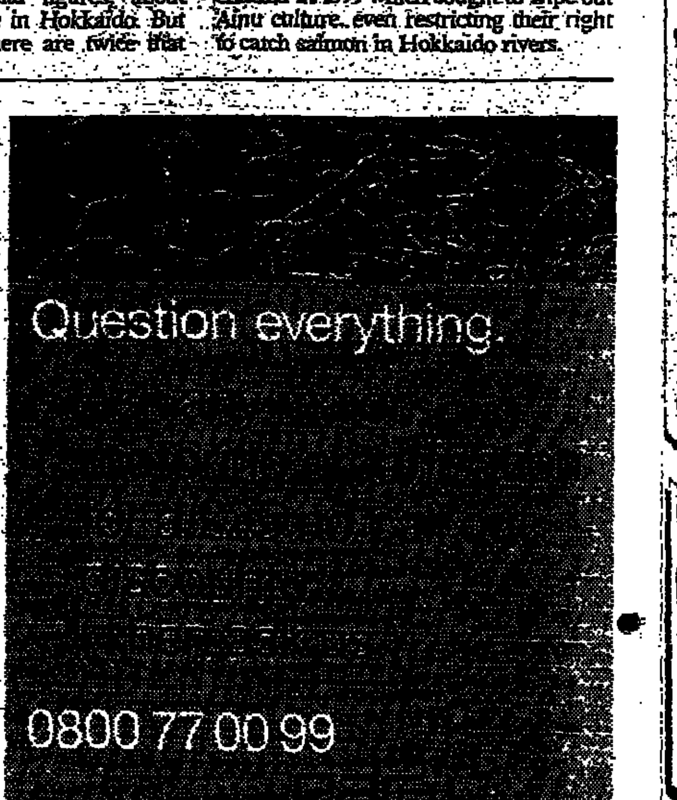

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Caribbean crime soars after US deportations rise

From David Adams in Miami

THE Caribbean islands are battling a crime wave, and an increase in the deportation of criminals from the United States is largely to blame.

That is the message which leaders of the region have prepared for President Clinton when he attends a Caribbean-US summit in Barbados today.

Caribbean officials say that the deportees are introducing sophisticated criminal techniques learnt in America to their native lands. What some like to call the "Americanisation" of crime is tearing their small societies apart and straining police resources.

In Haiti, rampant crime threatens to undermine internationally financed efforts at national reconstruction. In the neighbouring Dominican Republic, police say armed crime soared last year. They blame 1,500 criminals sent back last year from the United States.

In Jamaica, officials note the island suffered one of its bloodiest years in 1996 — 891 people were murdered — in part because of the return of dangerous criminals. Of 1,765 criminals deported to Jamaica last year, 1,199 were from the United States, up from 872 the year before. Of the total, 902 were repatriated after or while serving prison terms for drug offences. It is worse in Haiti, the poorest country in the region with 85 per cent of the population out of work or in miserable part-time labour. Local gangs, swollen by recent deportees, are pushing the country further and further back into just the sort of chaos that the US Army rescued it from two years ago.

Rather than have immigrants who are convicted of serious crimes serve out sentences in expensive jails in America, US officials began repatriating them in the mid-1980s. It was seen then, and still today, as a way to relieve prison crowding — and costs — in America.

Washington officials say jailing foreign-born criminals was costing more than $1 billion (£621 million) a year. Robert Bach, policy director at the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service, said: "It is important that people know that the US is not permitting these [criminal] people to stay." Under pressure from voters and Congress, the Clinton Administration last year passed new legislation accelerating the number of deportations of criminals.

Since 1993 America has deported more than 100,000 criminal aliens. Last year's figure — 37,063 — was a 33 per cent increase on 1995.

Washington's anxiety to solve a domestic problem has failed to take into account the resulting social and economic costs that the returning criminals inflict back home, Caribbean officials and experts say. "These guys do not go back and plant tomatoes or oranges," said Ivelaw Griffith, a Guyana-born university professor and regional security expert. "They go back and reinvest in what they know best: crime. It's a nightmare for local law enforcement agencies."

Caribbean officials say it is ironic that America is dumping more and more criminals — many linked to drug trafficking — on their doorstep, at the same time as they are being pressured by the Americans to improve their performance in the drug war.

Central American and Caribbean officials acknowledge the right of the United States to deport, but say they are given little formal notice or background on the criminal history of those returned.

Clinton backs trading pact

Mexico City: President Clinton, arriving in Costa Rica yesterday, midway through his Latin American tour, called vigorously for free trade within the American continent, attacking congressional critics of trade accords, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (Bronwen Maddox writes).

HERIBERTO RODRIGUEZ / REUTER

President Clinton waves to children who sang for him during a cultural display in Tlaxcála, Mexico. He flies to Barbados today for a Caribbean summit

Muscovites hail London cabs for bumpy city ride

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

AFTER decades of faithful service on British streets, the London taxi is about to undergo what must rate as the most gruelling journey in its long and distinguished history.

Starting this year, the venerable black cab will begin service on the pot-holed, icebound and anarchic streets of Moscow, where the lifespan of even the most robust cars rarely extends beyond a handful of years.

Cooper Metrocab, the British manufacturer which is working with the Russians to open an assembly plant in Moscow, has reportedly guaranteed each vehicle for 310,000 miles, described as "phenomenal" by a local commentator.

"We chose the British cabs after careful consideration because we decided that they were the most sturdy, comfortable and safe for passengers and drivers," said Yuri Ostrovsky, an official from the Moscow Government's transport department.

The introduction of a reliable cab service is part of an attempt by the authorities to regulate the chaos on Moscow's streets, where most people still use widely available pirate taxis instead of the often rundown official cabs.

The problem of street crime in Moscow was an important consideration in choosing the British cars. It is hoped that the estimated 2,000 distinctive London cabs destined for the Russian capital will be too conspicuous to steal.

Also, as Ivan Deremychev, who runs a local taxi firm, pointed out, Russian-made Volgas and Moskviches offer no protection to drivers, who are subject to frequent muggings in Moscow. "The partition in the British model would be a big advantage for our drivers," he said.

Moscow boasts some of the most inhospitable streets in the world. They are covered in snow and ice for half the year. Grit used on the roads during the winter months can corrode even the most sturdy vehicle in a couple of years. After the thaw the capital's streets are hot, dusty and cracked. Potholes are so common that one newspaper ran a competition to locate the city's largest crater.

Certainly, Andrei, a Moscow cabbie for more than 20 years, said that if the London cab was as good as it sounded he would be tempted to trade in his unwieldy Volga for the chance to sit behind the wheel of a British car. "The only British car I have ever heard of is the Rolls-Royce. If your cabs are anything like that, put me down for one," he said.

☐ **Unpopular design:** The Russians have chosen the cab design least likely to be used by Londoners (Kevin Eason writes). The Metrocab was launched a decade ago as the alternative to the familiar Fairway taxi, whose shape is known the world over.

The design failed to take off among London cabbies, however, and even now only about 6,000 of Britain's 30,000 purpose-built taxis are Metrocabs.

BUT OTHERS, TOO, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS MUMMY...
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A brooding Rudolph Giuliani speaks out for New Yorkers in the *Spider-Man* comic strip this week

Mayor gets his own web site

From Tunku Varadarajan in New York

RUDOLPH GIULIANI, the Mayor of New York, has joined America's pantheon of pumped-up heroes by appearing in the *Spider-Man* comic strip this week.

The Mayor, held in high regard by New Yorkers for his rugged approach to crime, plays himself in the strip, although the kindly artist depicts him with a fuller head of hair than he has in real life.

In the latest instalment of *The Amazing Spider-Man*, a brooding Mr Giuliani is portrayed saying words that come straight from his election campaign: "We can't let our citizens live in fear!"

Colleen Roche, the Mayor's press secretary, said that her boss was pleased with his appearance alongside Spider-Man. She said: "He is a big fan and is in 100 per cent agreement with the statement attributed to him."

Stan Lee, the creator of the popular comic strip in which Spider-Man puts the city's "punks" in their place, said that he enjoyed dropping well-known figures into his stories. "We like for it to appear real," he said. The realism, however, appears to be confined to Mr Giuliani, as Spider-Man does battle with a fiendish Egyptian mummy called Tut Ammon. The mummy robs New York's helpless citizens and then vanishes into thin air, driving up the city's crime figures in the process.

Clark: highest paid of all trial participants

Simpson prosecutor has the final word

Los Angeles: Marcia Clark, the lawyer who conducted the prosecution of O. J. Simpson for murder, today attacks the "court of public opinion" in *Beyond a Doubt*, her 500-page memoirs (Giles Whittell writes).

The book reveals little new about her or the case, in which Mr Simpson was acquitted, except that she was raped at 17 and that she and Christopher Darden, her co-counsel, were "closer than lovers" by the time the trial ended. But Ms Clark has had the last laugh despite her defeat.

Her $4.2 million (£2.6 million) book advance is the largest of more than 20 paid to participants in the trial. In addition, her status as an icon for overburdened working women has won her thousands more from lectures.

Viking, her publisher, is likely to profit less and has halved its projected first print run of a million copies.

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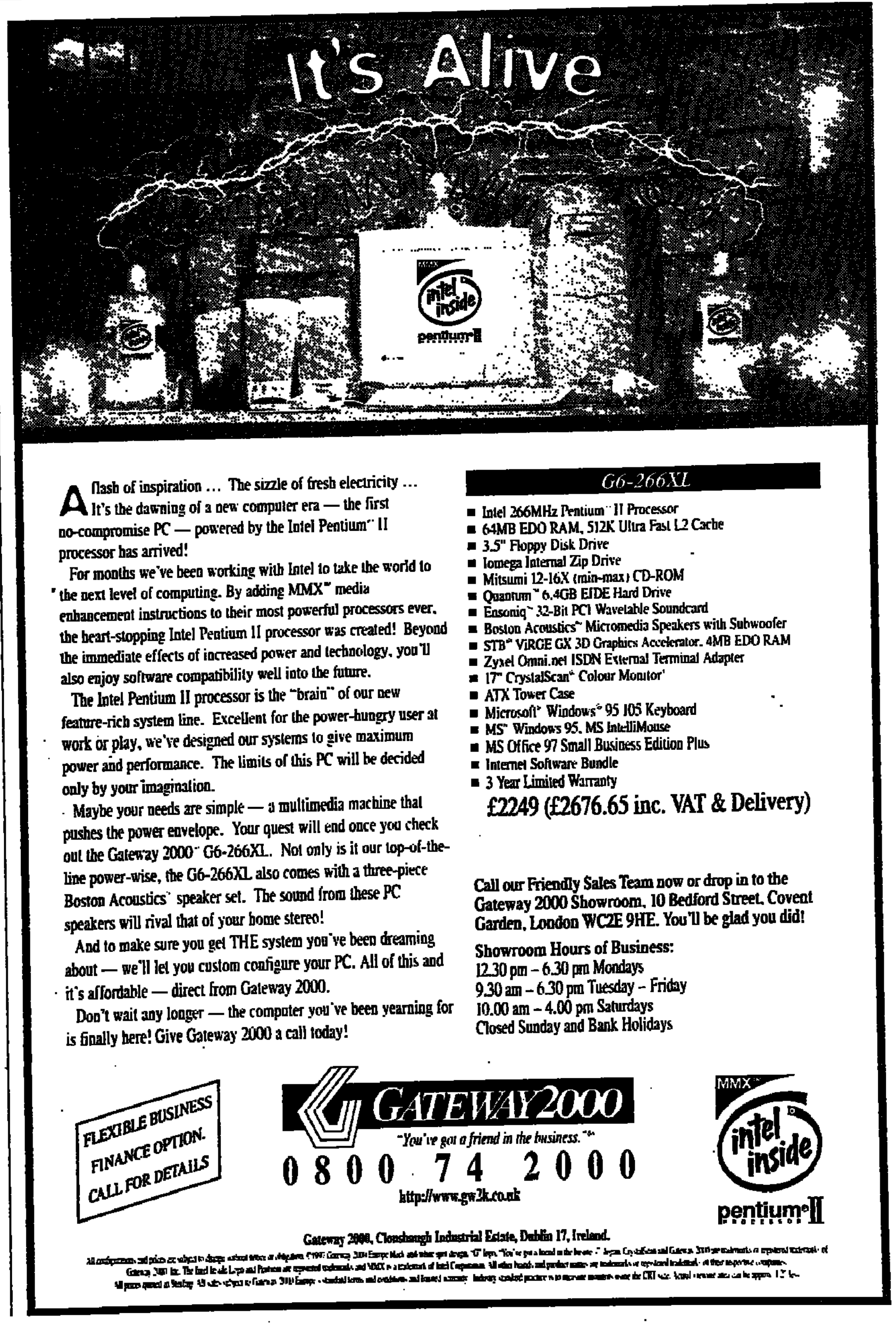

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‘We are grateful for what the Tories did, but it is not the end of the story’

Can Frank Field solve the problems of the welfare state?

ALAN WELLER

Frank Field: "For the whole of my political life, Labour has espoused a view of human nature which is simply wrong. The self-regarding side has been ignored or suppressed"

How times change. When I last interviewed Frank Field, in the 1980s, he was a lone backbencher in a crewneck sweater and we talked over a plate of spaghetti in an eaterie one step up from a greasy spoon. In the unreconstructed Labour Party he was a voice in the wilderness, a supporter of Tory reforms. Mrs Thatcher had declared her respect for him, "a good man".

Field's future seemed hopeless. He was stuck in an *unelectable party which, if it* ever got into government, would never offer him a job because he could not be one of them. Not only did he think *the unthinkable, he spoke it,* with a whispered intensity.

Yet here he is today, grey-haired, 54, in a ministerial suit, occupying a splendid panelled office in Richmond House, Whitehall, with three tall Gothic windows and two sofas plushly upholstered in cream. "I feel I have come home," he says.

Not many new ministers come to the job having already written 16 books on their subject, three in the last three years: *An Agenda for Britain, Making Welfare Work* and *How to Pay For the Future.* The titles tell you everything really. If we want the welfare state we will have to pay for it differently. Mr Blair has underscored his enthusiasm for Field's views by making him *minister for the reform of* welfare.

What Field always understood was that the social security system shaped people's behaviour, and must be subject to moral scrutiny. He said it was asinine to separate benefit offices from jobcentres: why give benefit to those not seeking work? He said Labour should have sold council houses, reformed the trade unions, introduced school *tests: why were so many* school-leavers unable to read or write, when there were no jobs for illiterate youths any more? He pointed out that *people enjoy saving: it gives* them control over their lives: why were they penalised for having a nest-egg? Welfare should be a springboard, not a prison. The Labour Party was "completely out of touch with reality", "short on street cred", "politically infantile", "unelectable".

Long before it was politically acceptable, he wrote about the underclass, habitual dependency, and fraudsters. The *social security system, with by* far the biggest budget in Britain, had become rotten and ruinous, discouraging savings, encouraging untruth, *undermining honesty and ef*fort. For years, he told us housing benefit was a sitting duck for organised gangsters who used the system as a personal merchant bank. He knows of landlords drawing more than £1 million a year in housing benefit, most of it fraudulent.

The Tories took an unconscionable long time to start countering fraud, and much of the running was made by the *Commons Select Committee* on Social Security, which Field chaired for ten years. (He was terrific in the Maxwell hearings.) Peter Lilley had started getting tough, but Field promises to be tougher. "We are most grateful for what the last government did, but it's the beginning of the story, not the end. The media has always accused Joe Bloggs of committing fraud; but the biggest gains for the taxpayer will come when we deal with the big boys, the gangsters or 'businessmen' as they call themselves." When will that be? "*On day three in this* office, Valerie, I have not yet got a plan agreed by government."

But with the alacrity charac*teristic of the new regime,* briefings from civil servants in the DSS began on Bank Holiday Monday; he says he has learnt much already.

Field grew up a working-class Tory at St Clement Danes Grammar School in West London. His father worked for 48 years building carbon blocks at Morgan Crucible. "*He got up every day,* coughing his lungs out, hating his job, but he never went sick, never let them down." After 48 years they gave him £1 for *every year of employment. The* now radicalised Frank read economics at Hull, and served a long, dedicated apprenticeship as director of the Child Poverty Action Group.

He lives alone in a neat, book-lined flat in Westminster. *In Birkenhead he rents a* Georgian property in a pretty square. He wanted to buy there too, but he could never be sure he would hang onto his majority: in the 1980s the local Labour militants were determined to dislodge him. *What has become of those* Trots? "We got them out," he says, looking foxy. "It's called not turning the other cheek." He now has a 21,843 majority (swing: 8.5 per cent).

Welfare should be a springboard, not a prison

He says, with a beatific smile, *what a wonderful expe*rience it was to be on the winning side, for once not having to apologise for his party's manifesto. In his books and pamphlets he repeatedly suggested ways in which the Labour Party could "leapfrog the Tory agenda" and start setting its own. "We have now *leapt,*" he says.

He is a priestly and contemplative soul, a former member of the General Synod ("deselected because I was unsound on women priests"), a Christian first, a politician second, who once slept on the streets to draw attention to the homeless. Few are better suited to *represent the financial mettle* and probity of new Labour.

"For the whole of my political life, Labour has espoused a view of human nature which is *simply* wrong," he says. "The self-regarding side has been ignored or suppressed. All the cant that we paraded on stilts, the notion that we were only motivated by altruism, must have left the punters bewildered and angry: it is just not how the world works.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

"Our job now is to show how self-interest — a natural and wholesome instinct, the greatest driving force in all of us — can also promote the common good. The last government failed to distinguish between self-interest and selfish greed. If people are worrying about their future, their children's future, the care of their elderly parents, they won't have time or sympathy for more vulnerable people. Our aim must be to make *them so happy that we can* win their support for other people less fortunate."

He is determined to wean us all off the "ration-book economy" and into a more collective arrangement. We shall all be obliged to make secondary pension provision, to run alongside universal state provision. How far this plan differs from Peter Lilley's remains to be seen. "What the *Tories published was the de*mise of the state pension. We want the sharp elbows of the middle class seeing this as a jolly useful first step in build*ing an adequate retirement* income, even if they've got another pension. But people will not be prepared to make that second pension provision *if they think politicians have* got their sticky fingers on it — so we must encourage the expansion of existing mutual bodies which have nothing to do with the State. We do have a history, a tradition of doing things collectively, before the State took over."

Some accuse him of abandoning his traditional interests. They remember that during the last Labour government, before he became an MP, he was tireless in reminding us of the existence of hungry latchkey children. But he has never lost sight of *protecting* the weakest, the oldest, the poorest, the genuine underdog.

I reminded him that he once told me that if he ever got into government he would prefer the Irish office, "because it ought to be held by a non-*family man,* in case he got blown up." A saintly thought. What does he say now?

He said he was delighted to have this job and was determined to make a success of it. I said I rather hoped for a more fiery response. "People have always categorised me as one who was born to be the outsider. In fact I've been a passionate insider, obliged to be on the outside, but who wanted to play a part in making my party electable. There are *enormous advantages in* being on the back benches, but there are privileges and duties which come with being in government.

"*My critics thought I would* never be able to make the transition, that I would not last two days. But on day three I can tell you it's the most natural thing in the world to me, to be in this wonderful room." (Previous occupants Sir Nicholas Scott, William Hague...) "I want to maximise each minute in this job. I love it. It's my life. It feels like coming home."

Crossing Trafalgar Square afterwards, who should I run into but my old friend Alan Brien, Sunderland-born author of *Lenin: the novel.* "Frank Field?" he harrumphed. "Dismantling the welfare state, I suppose." Oh dear. I see that the diehards of old Labour have yet to be won over.

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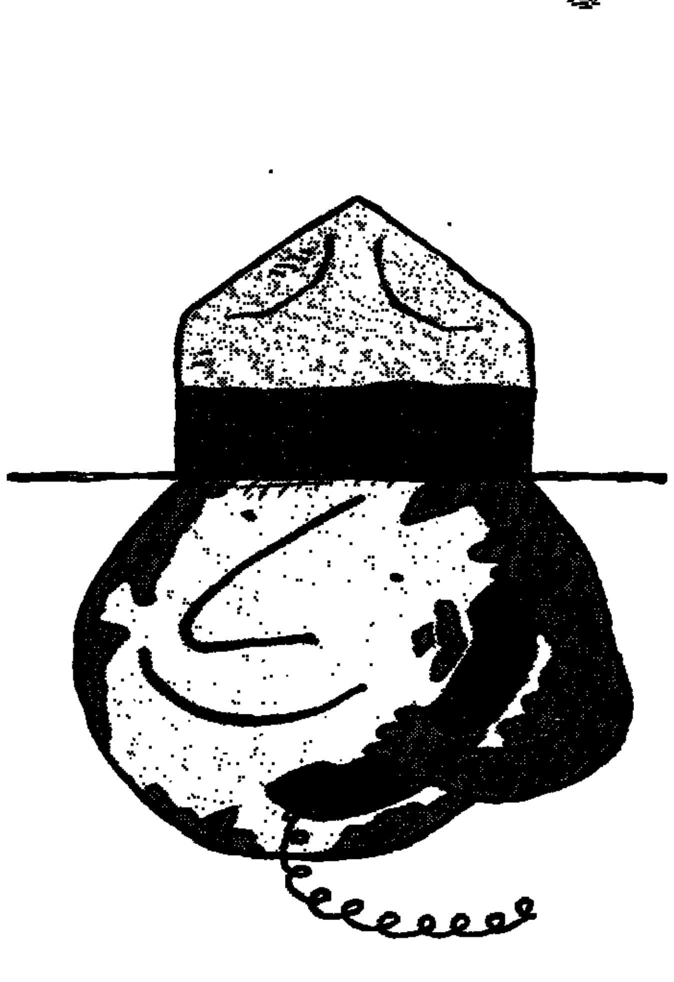

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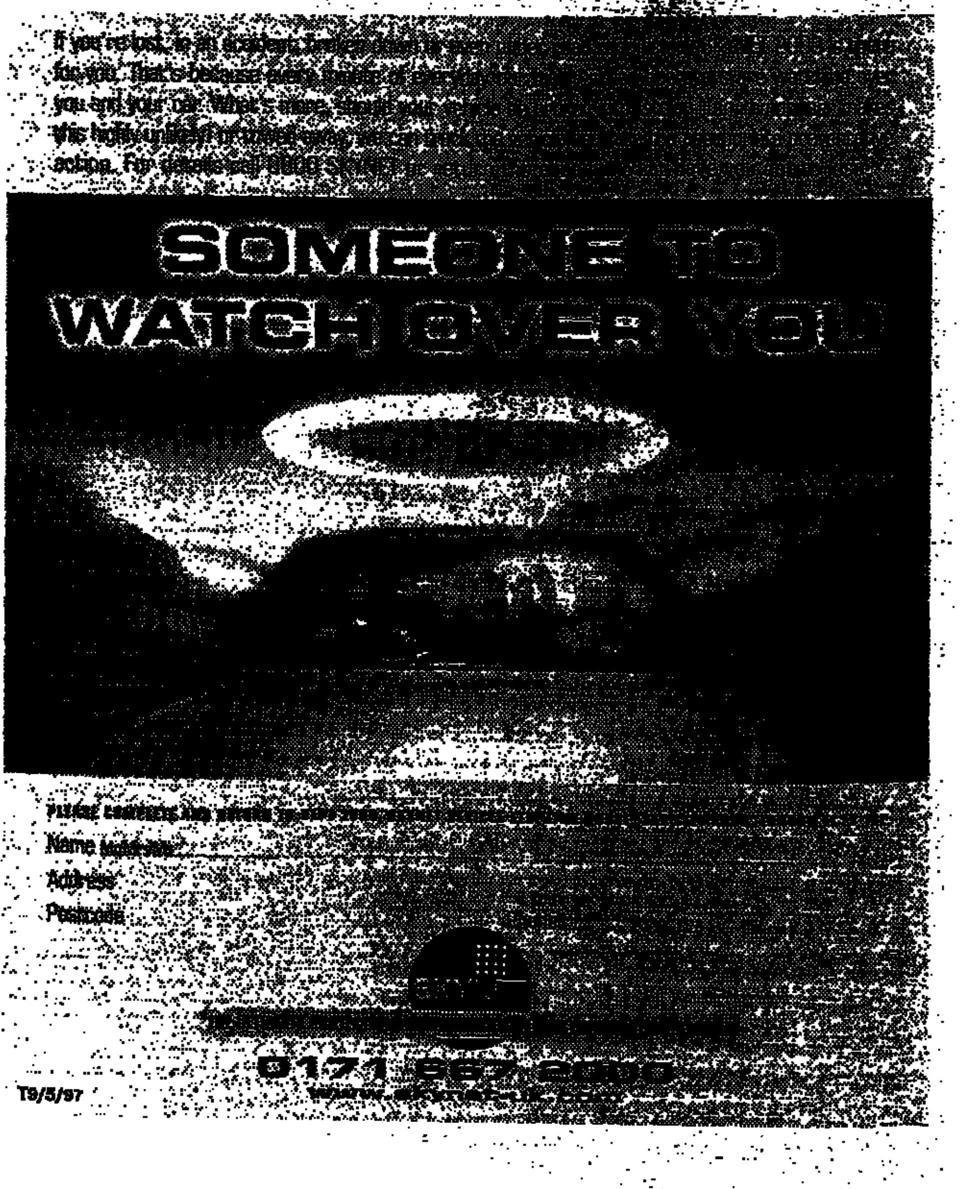

The day they let the authors out of their studies

Any writer worth his salt had to be at Hatchards' bicentennial bash, says **Joseph Connolly**

The literary agent Ed Victor once famously suggested that the prime source of discontent on the part of wannabee authors and those denied access to the inner corridors of "Literary London" was the deep-seated and resentful belief that all the high-powered deals are conducted by a small circle of friends in and around the Groucho Club, and that all literary parties revolved around the same handful of OK writers: and naturally, he concluded, these malcontents have got it dead-right.

Nowhere is this maybe better illustrated than at the most eagerly anticipated and effortlessly stylish literary bash of them all — the annual Authors of the Year party at Hatchards in Piccadilly. Traditionally held at the end of April, the latest effort was even more glittering than usual, for this year is Hatchards' 200th birthday. If you were a writer worth your salt you just *had* to be there and, if not, it was imperative to make it somehow known (anywhere that matters) that you *were* invited, of course you were, but something even grander had prevented you from attending (and short of a quick dubbing at Buck House, it is difficult to think quite what).

The unique thing about this party is that 95 per cent of the guest list comprises bona fide writers — the odd diarist apart, journalists, PRs and paparazzi are actively discouraged. That said, the mix of people is quite extraordinary: where else could you find the author of *Watership Down*, Richard Adams, in earnest conversation with Salman Rushdie — A. S. Byatt wading in to make up the triangle? I had great fun chatting to Salman (one of the most sane, humorous and down-to-earth of authors) about everything from publishers (but of course) to clothes, beards — having one is nicer than shaving, we agreed (beards R Us) — and the excitement he was feeling at the prospect of the following night's election bash round at Martin Amis's place.

Fuelling myself on more of the excellent and endless champagne, I sidled off for a word with Jilly Cooper — weaving my way through characters as diverse as Antonio Carluccio, Lord Owen, Jane Asher, Julian Barnes, Colin Thubron and T.S. Eliot's widow; all in their way apparently having a whale of a time.

Jilly seems to remember me mainly on the strength of a review I once gave one of her books, oh God — *years* ago. In it I suggested that her next should centre on the Henley Regatta and be entitled *Rowlocks*. She called me Rowlocks, now (I thinks she means it kindly). Jilly was quite one of the most attractive women there — she *can't* be 60, can she? She looks early 40s, tops, and gorgeous with it. There is a tremendous sense of release and clean good fun at the Hatchards party — I think in part because, contrary to how it may appear, even the most eminent writers don't get out all that much. It's an upside down world, the writing game — when you're on show, sipping bubbles, you are not working (although novelists might debate that); when you are locked in at home, though — howling at the moon and maybe getting the words down, to the outside world you might as well not exist.

SUSAN GREENHILL

Joseph Connolly and Salman Rushdie

Louise Doughty and Deborah Moggach certainly seemed as delighted as schoolgirls on half-term — Debbie supplying the inevitable "publisher horror story": a fan had confided that she had been disappointed with her last one — "it rather left you up in the air", she'd thought. Debbie — with typical authorial modesty — grovelled her apology, only to find out that the last two chapters had been omitted from the print run; 40,000 paperbacks were pulped, and no more was said. (When publishers blunder, little is ever said.)

The wheels of the party were as usual stylishly oiled by Hatchards' manager, Roger Katz — he steers the right people together, avoids possible confrontations and treats everyone as a star (easier, mind you, when practically everyone *is*). Do you remember last year, he asked me, when Iris Murdoch and Vikram Seth were deeply engaged in philosophical discourse for the entire duration of the party? I do, I do — I was far too terrified to even approach — and was anyway chatting to the fab and thrilling Joan Collins (*she* can't be 60, can she? My God, these young women today have a thing or two to learn).

Deftly dodging some damn female who had given my last novel, *Stuff*, a, shall we say, less than glowing review (Rowlocks to her), I found myself talking to Elizabeth Jane Howard, whom I last met maybe 18 years ago when she was living in Hampstead with Kingsley Amis, in the days when he and I used to have the odd pub lunch together. She remembered those times, but was maybe not keen to disinter them: she further seemed very eager to talk to Louis de Bernières who, I could have told her, wasn't there. She asked me over to meet Beryl Bainbridge (who was smoking for England) but on the way (it's that sort of party) I encountered all sorts of other folk — Nico Ladenis (quite the reverse of the stern and rather intimidating figure he initially appears, though quite fed up with the likes of Conran headhunting his workforce) and Bernice Rubens (who was smoking for Europe): Bernice was the winner of the Booker Prize more than a quarter of a century ago, before it became so terminally glam. She wanted us to sidle back over to her friend Salman, but was reluctant while Richard Adams still hovered ("he might want to talk about rabbits!").

As the hours wear on, authors' parties don't tend to thin out very much: they really like it, once it gets going. Over there is One Fat Lady, Jennifer Paterson, hitting the canapés — just in front of thriller writer Robert Goddard, slightly miffed that he wasn't allowed to write the latest film adaptation of one of his novels. Nor was he shown the finished result. He was, however, — as writers learn to be — philosophical. You never lose sight of the fact that you're only a *writer*.

Roger Katz was now gently deflecting a publisher (how did *he* get in, folks were heard to mutter) who must remain as nameless as he was almost legless — and gradually the message was filtering down that it was maybe time to drift away. Quite a few guests were leaving — there go Sir Ludovic and Lady Kennedy, and gone, too, are P. D. James and Lord Jenkins (individually, it has to be said). Colin Dexter, Sebastian Faulks, Nicholas Evans, Donald Sinden, Hammond Innes — all floating back to their lairs.

To some of us, though, going home is impossible — what you do is gather together a band of like-minded souls and go *on* somewhere; and where better than the Groucho Club? Because Ed Victor had it right, you know — just as Hatchards is not so much a bookshop (more a way of life), the same is true of the Groucho. The danger is, of course, it's a way of life that scribblers can become addicted to — because although it really *is* true that they don't actually get out all that much — getting them back in again can be an absolute nightmare.

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NETWORK

Falling stars: Bolshoi performers were once feted around the world but on a disastrous trip to Las Vegas last year they often faced empty theatres

Russia's dying swan

The Bolshoi's artistic director aims to put the ailing company back on its feet, says **Richard Beeston**

From his grand office in the Bolshoi Theatre, Vladimir Vasiliev can see and feel the changes under way in the heart of Russia's greatest cultural treasure. Entombed in scaffolding and crawling with workmen, the imposing neoclassical building is being repaired and renovated to give the 200-year-old institution a new lease of life into the next millennium.

But as the former acclaimed dancer and now artistic director nervously pushes back his shock of blond hair, it is not the exterior of the Bolshoi that troubles him. Damaged walls can be repaired, but how can the demoralised, overstaffed and cash-strapped Bolshoi be re-established as one of the world's great centres of performing arts?

Two years ago when he was appointed to his job, replacing a Soviet-era director whose leadership style was most often compared with Stalin's, Vasiliev introduced a sense of hope that the Bolshoi would one day regain its reputation as the world's greatest ballet.

He promised to bring in star conductors and dancers. He vowed to thin out the staff of more than 2,000 and pledged to inject a new spirit of pride and optimism after years in the artistic doldrums. The promises, which followed the first strike in the Bolshoi's history by disgruntled dancers, may have sounded persuasive but Vasiliev concedes he still has a long way to go.

"At the Bolshoi, it is always the case that the problems are *bolshoi* (big) as well," says Vasiliev who, despite his double-breasted suit and managerial job, still moves with the grace of a dancer. "I sometimes think we need a few more of the dictatorial methods to run this place."

One of his first moves was to stage his own version of Tchaikovsky's classic *Swan Lake*, which involved several dramatic revisions, including eliminating a central character. The production was panned by critics and ballet lovers. A critic for the weekly *Vek* wrote: "What remains is a banal family drama packed in swan's feathers." The howls of protest over the new production were followed by a disastrous tour abroad, the latest in a series of trips to the West dogged by poor ticket sales and bad reviews.

The sad state of the Bolshoi is revealed in *Dancing for Dollars*, a two-part documentary, the first of which is to be aired at 9pm this Sunday on Channel Four. It follows the tragic, and at times comic, escapades of the company on a tour of Las Vegas last year.

> 'With time and effort we can once again astound the world'

Predictably, the visit was a flop and American investors lost more than £1 million as the dancers performed to empty seats. At one point an American promoter suggests, half in jest, that the only way to attract audiences is to perform naked.

The film is most striking when it contrasts today's pathetic performance with the Bolshoi's landmark tour of 1959, when fans slept on the streets to get tickets. In one poignant moment, Raisa Struchkova, a ballerina who took part in both tours, recalls how audiences in New York threw so many bouquets that she "walked on flowers all the way to our hotel".

Vasiliev ponders these criticisms with a heavy heart. "I was crushed by the reviews of *Swan Lake*, but I am convinced that, in time, I will be vindicated," he says, adding that he is working on a new version of the classic *Giselle*. "As for the tour of America, it was badly organised and I did not have proper control. That will not happen again."

He vows that with time and effort, the Bolshoi will once again astound audiences around the world.

"What I am concentrating on now is building up the key elements of a great company, the orchestra, the ballet, the opera and so on," he says. "It sounds Utopian, but it can be done and I have set myself a target of the beginning of the millennium."

His confidence is greeted with suspicion by his staff. Gediminas Taranda, an acclaimed dancer at the Bolshoi, says that performers are still not clear whether Vasiliev has what is needed to restore lost greatness. "The morale is better. The organisation is better. But the repertoire is uninspired," he says. "Although we were promised world-class performers from the West, not one has come in two years. There is a sense that Vasiliev is not doing enough to promote the talented dancers and create his own stars."

But Vasiliev remains philosophical and says that the Bolshoi is simply a reflection of Russia today. Just as President Yeltsin is criticised as he attempts to reform the country in the face of corruption, bureaucracy and the mafia, so Vasiliev is hounded by the volatile artistic community as he struggles with the mafia's grip of ticket sales, a bloated administration and a general resistance to change. For those who love the Bolshoi, Vasiliev is for the time being the only man capable of saving the theatre. The only fear is that, like his famous dancing role of Spartacus, his efforts will end in tragedy.

● Dancing for Dollars, *9pm Sunday, C4. Part two is on at the same time on Sunday May 18.*

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مصور من الاصل

Enter the three Tory musketeers

Daniel Johnson wants younger bloods to refresh a weary party

The Tory party badly needs cheering up. An unedifying beauty contest of redundant Cabinet ministers, in which all the candidates feel bound to engage in competitive boasting, is unlikely to do the trick. Time was when modesty and reticence were taken for granted, and even unintentional showmanship was ruthlessly punished. Consider Quintin Hogg (now Lord Hailsham), who renounced his peerage in 1963 to run for the leadership, only to ruin his chances with a public appearance feeding his baby. Innocent, even endearing as it seems today, this was then seen as showing off. Even Douglas Hurd's attempt to play down his privileged background during the war of the Thatcherite succession in 1990 *was taken amiss: if there is one* thing worse than immodesty, it is false modesty.

I doubt whether vainglorious speeches and press conferences *will impress the despon*dent survivors of the rout. What they need now is a class act, not a *salon des refusés*. No doubt the new leader will emerge from among the *papabile*, those who sat in the Major Cabinets. Portillo, Rifkind or Patten could even join the list if the Uxbridge by-election is held in time. But there is room for a thinker-cum-orator, if not a messiah — a Macleod, if not a Thatcher — from the other ranks.

The Tories need a class act, not a salon des refusés

For that the Tories must look to their new blood. Those who entered the Commons in 1992, and particularly those elected only last week, are *likely to be better able to adapt* to opposition than those who have spent much of the past 18 years in government and share the blame for defeat

Above all, the party needs another F.E. Smith. In the aftermath of a comparable catastrophe in 1906, when even the Prime Minister, A.J. Balfour, lost his seat, Smith's maiden speech put fire back into Tory bellies. That is the signal that not only MPs but disillusioned *Tory and ex-Tory voters are* waiting for: new statesmen to capture their imagination, restore their confidence and mount a cogent philosophical response to new Labour's victory. Now that Tony Blair has appropriated the Thatcherite legacy, the Tory party has to ask itself what it is for, and begin the slow reconquest of the cities, Scotland and Wales, the North, the West and the Midlands. It must also avoid the Jacobite temptation.

There is no shortage of talent or political experience among the new intake. Some of those who have just returned to Westminster have already held office with distinction: Francis Maude, John Maples, Christopher Chope, Michael Fallon. Others have achieved much outside politics, such as Archie Norman, that remarkable businessmen, and Shaun Woodward, the former producer of *Newsnight* and *Panorama* — a potential Tory Mandelson. Then there are the inevitable advisers, all of them ambitious and some of them brilliant: David Ruffley, Andrew Tyrie, Julian Lewis, Andrew Lansley, Tim Collins, John Bercow, Crispin Blunt. Most are on the centre-right.

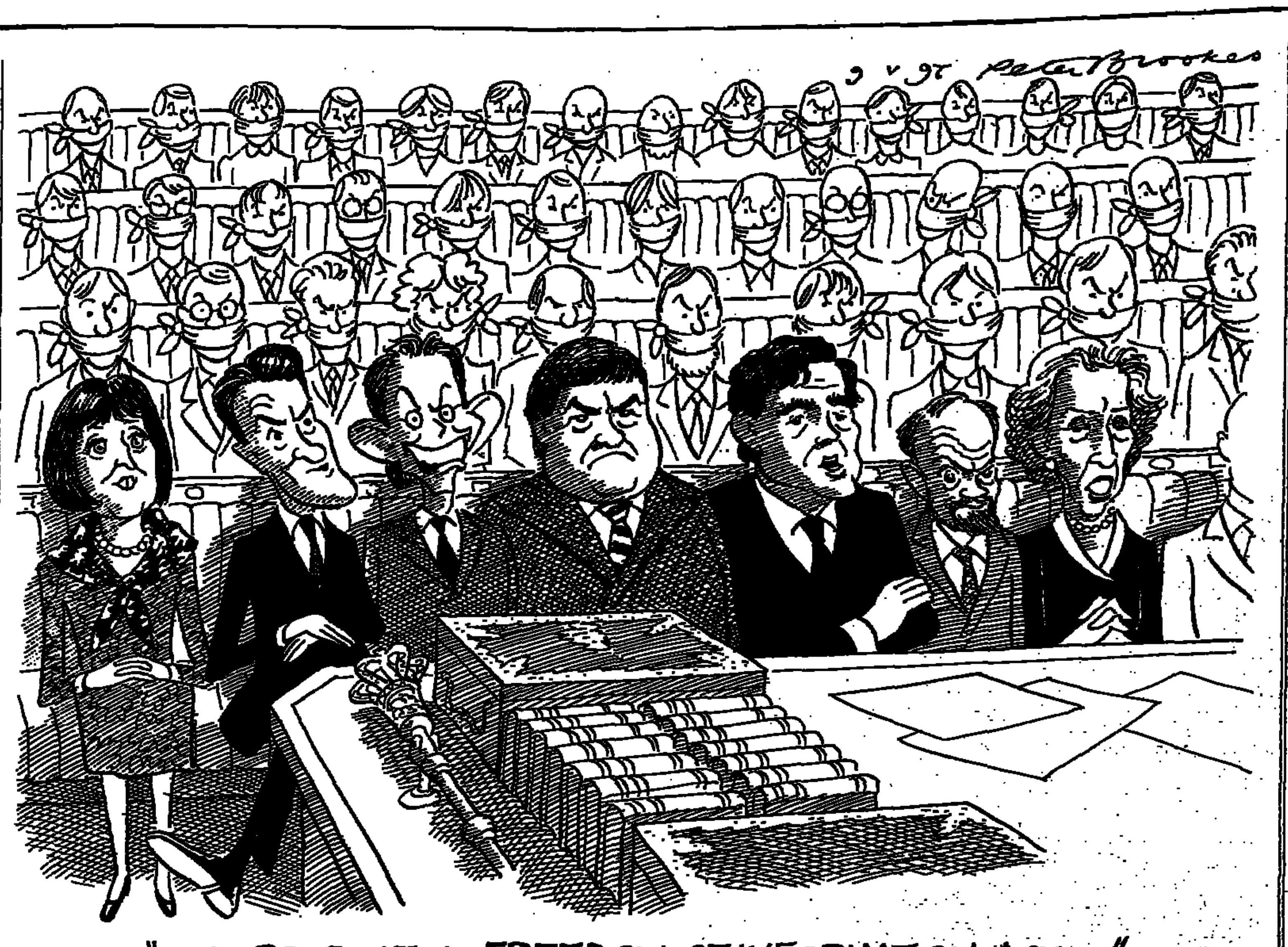
Perhaps none of these more or less gifted chaps (and the party should be worried by the lack of women) is quite cut out to lead the Tory revival. If one includes the 1992 crop, though, I recognise three Conservatives with real star quality: David Willetts, Iain Duncan Smith and Oliver Letwin.

Of the three, only Willetts has so far held ministerial office, though that ended painfully. The bad taste left by the notorious note which led to his resignation less than six months ago may be too fresh for him to take the Commons by storm yet, but he remains one of the best parliamentary speakers on the Tory benches, and one of the party's most *fluent writers. Humbled and* hardened by adversity, he should shine in opposition. He has yet to lose his egghead image, but Labour has a heal*thy respect for him. He has* vanquished Mandelson, formerly his opposite number, at the dispatch box.

One of the most tenacious Eurosceptics of the 1992 intake, Iain Duncan Smith has regularly contributed philippics to this page. His warnings to the Major Government about Europe were never heeded, but proved prescient. What impresses many who meet him is the natural authority of a former army officer — a rarity in today's Tory party. Duncan Smith inherited Norman Tebbit's seat at Chingford, and has something of his taste for telling the party *home truths. Lord Tebbit him*self sees Duncan Smith as his "godson", and Baroness Thatcher admires his swashbuckling style.

*The new boy is Oliver Let*win. It took him ten years to enter the Commons: from Stoke Newington via Hampstead to West Dorset. The son of eminent American dons, Letwin is a unique fusion of Cambridge and Chicago. He left a glittering academic *career to rescue Sir Keith* Joseph when he was marooned at the Education Department. At the No 10 Policy Unit he was one of Margaret Thatcher's best boffins. When John Redwood became an MP, Letwin succeeded him at N.M. Rothschild's privatisation unit; he has run it successfully for ten years. The party needs a philosopher to make the case against a Government that has stolen most of its ideas: it could be Letwin.

Willetts, Letwin and Duncan Smith are mature, solid family men in their early forties, with backgrounds in, respectively, the Civil Service, the City and the Services. Whoever wins the leadership, this triumvirate deserves a place in any future Shadow Cabinet. Willetts has declared for Lilley, Duncan Smith for Redwood: Letwin could vote for either. All three see Europe as the great issue of the day, and oppose the single currency on principle. New Labour may have hijacked the *Zeitgeist*, but these three musketeers are still the cutting edge of Conservatism.



" WE PROPOSE A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT..."

In praise of quangos

E.M. Forster was right: two cheers for democracy is quite enough

Matthew Parris

The little girl who asked "How can I know what I think until I hear what I say?" spoke truer than she knew. As an adolescent, I used to suppose that one must consult one's beliefs, then put them into action. With age has come the realisation that we must act, examine our actions, then work out what we believe.

Applying this rule to the near-unanimous reception given to the Chancellor's decision to cede interest rate policy to the Bank of England, it *becomes apparent that, as we near the* end of the 20th century, the British political Establishment's confidence in democracy is on the wane. We have, after all, little more than 60 years' ex*perience of government by full univer*sal adult suffrage. Abroad, the system has found favour in only a minority of countries and in many it does not seem to be working. At home it is too *early to offer more than a preliminary* judgment on the experiment. The preliminary judgment is sceptical.

I thought Norman Lamont put it best. As a former Chancellor, he congratulated Gordon Brown on Tuesday's decision. "Interest rates", he said, "should not be in the hands of politicians, who are subject to all *kinds of pressures*."

Hear, hear to that! But how very illuminating. So politicians are "subject to all kinds of pressures", are they? Indeed they are. Politicians are subject to one particular "pressure", a tiresome distraction, relentless, and unremitting: the pressure to win elections.

Mr Lamont is not the first politician to notice *how* degrading the influence of popular opinion can be. Plutarch reports that in 150 BC the Athenian general and statesman Phocion, on being clapped and cheered by his audience, turned to his friend Diogenes Laertius and remarked "have I inadvertently said something foolish?" Juvenal observed: "The people long eagerly for just two things: bread and circuses." Jonathan Swift thought that "the bulk of mankind is as well qualified for flying as for thinking". Samuel Butler agreed. "The public buys its opinions as it buys its meat, or takes in its milk: on the principle that it is cheaper to do this than to keep a cow." Asked what might impress the common people of France, Talleyrand replied, "Well, you might try getting crucified and rising again on the third day." Said George Burns: "Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs or cutting hair."

Do not misunderstand. I share this suspicion of democracy and am not trying to mock. I'm with Phocion, Juvenal, Butler, Swift, Talleyrand, Burns, Lamont and Brown on this. There is much to be said for the opinion that the pressure to please the *public subverts good administration*. I only observe that it is a rather large opinion with consequences beyond the management of interest rates. If, with Mr Brown, we seek to remove *Treasury decision-making from* those who are "subject to all kinds of pressures", why limit our reforms to the Treasury?

Why do Messrs Brown and Lamont think interest-rate policy should not be entrusted to an elected politician? Because (they would say) this is an area of government in which popularity may be sought at the expense *of long-term* economic damage. Within a year or so of a general election, a Chancellor is under pressure to keep down interest rates (and thus mortgage rates), even *if this risks building up inflationary* pressure, the effects of which will not be felt until after the election. In other words, it is said, a Chancellor currying favour with the electorate may opt for short-term gain but long-term pain.

This is true, but only up to a point. The ill-effects of a cowardly interest-rate policy are not only predictable and predicted, but quite swift in coming. The cowardly seeker of popular favour may hear the cheers begin to die faster than he planned. A brave, "unpopular" Chancellor may win popular credit faster than cynics suppose.

Not so a brave transport minister. If the case for taking interest-rate policy away from the politicians is strong, how much stronger is the case for taking away transport policy, and handing it to the professionals. Observe the Humber Bridge, the white elephant that won a by-election, and weep! Plot the course of the Central Wales railway line, a subsidy-guzzler serving five marginal seats, and despair! All the popular pressure on a transport minister is for the quick-fix bypass, the hopeless rail-link, the subsidy on ticket prices or the showcase project, in preference to balanced investment in infrastructure. Few politicians dare contemplate road-pricing, and none dare extrapolate the growth of car use to 2010, let alone 2020, and ask the *howling, unanswered question*. A brave Chancellor may be rewarded within years. A brave transport minister will be transported vertically before he finds his reward. *Transport policy should therefore be* left to people who are not running for office. If a committee of the Bank of England can decide our mortgage rates, why can't a transport commission ponder guidelines for the future and carve up the current financial cake?

I am not aware that Kenneth Clarke's interest-rate policy was seriously subverted by a desire for votes. But Michael Howard's penal policy was. If you seek an example of the degrading of debate and decision-making in the scrabble for popularity, *Michael Howard and* Jack Straw provide it. The price will be paid as the century closes and prisons burst. The prize was machismo for Mr Straw and — who knows? — *the leadership of the Tory* party for Mr Howard. If an elected Chancellor should stand at one remove from interest rates, should not the hand of an elected Home Secretary be stayed by an independent prisons board and a judicial watchdog guarding the law against capricious change?

And why not revive the Board of Trade? If one of the City's fears — now dispelled — was of a Labour Chancellor's interest-rate policy, another is of Labour ministers' gut-reaction to failing manufacturing industry: the instinct to prop it up. Were Margaret Beckett to renounce the power to "rescue" steel mills, shipyards, cotton mills, Halewoods and sundry British manufacturers facing Japanese buy-outs, the City would be reassured.

We would all be reassured if the incipient appetite of "old" Labour local government were similarly curbed. How about a national housing commission, independent of ministers, to take overall command of public-sector housing? Politicians answerable to voters love to promise homes and freeze rents. One of the most reckless and damaging promises of all time — the Tory promise before the 1951 election to build 300,000 new houses a year — left a legacy of social division and environmental wreckage in the form of dispiriting estates on green land around towns, and meanly construct*ed ghettos half a mile outside rural* villages. It was the Tory answer to Herbert Morrison's successful drive to "build the Tories out of London". It was crazy that politicians had such powers. *If a Chancellor is to be* stripped of his power to court favour with mortage-payers, why should a local councillor or environment minister, running for office, retain power to squander reserves and win favour with tenants?

Among the greatest glories of British administration are its unelected quangos. The BBC is the finest broadcasting corporation in the world. Our ancient universities spend public funds with distinction, as do the Royal Opera, the British Museum, Kew Gardens and a thousand smaller quasi-autonomous governmental or part-charitable institutions. Our *Armed Forces benefit from an arms*-length relationship with elected politicians, as do English Heritage, the Arts Council and many other bodies who act in the public interest but for whose operational decisions no minister is responsible to Parliament. In recent memory, our development corporations — such as London Docklands — have had a fine record. And now, famously, our Bank of England now adds another autonomous arrow to its quiver.

Soon, in a reformed House of Lords, we are to have the mother of all quangos, an appointed but autonomous legislature, answerable to nobody and nothing but its own sense of public service.

Ideology is dying, and so is the need to infuse every level of administration with the spirit of elective politics. By all means let us, from time to time, ask one captain to quit the bridge and replace him with another, but let us leave the radar controls, the engine-room, the compasses and the galley to the professionals. Hats off to Gordon Brown. Democracy is on the wane. Hurrah.

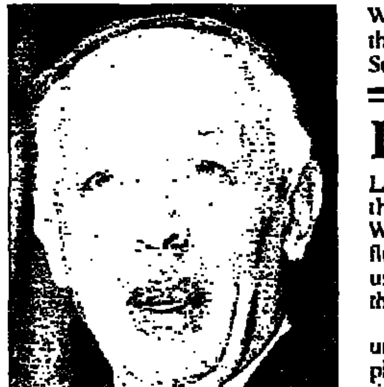
Philip Howard

That African Queen is causing trouble again

1. *Lo, the Queen of Sheba* hath come amongst us Mediaites again: and got her name once more into the tabloids of stone.
2. Verily the Yemenites and the tribes of Abyssinia are sorely troubled. They rage together, and their press officers imagine a vain thing. For the twain of them avow that the Queen of the South is the grandmother of their races, the Yemenites of theirs and the Ethiopians of theirs: and they wax exceeding wroth that the other race should covet the graven image of their Holiday Inns and other tourist amenities.
3. Yea their wrath is like unto the wrath of *the cockatrice that* seeth its young devoured by the turtle in the noonday sun.
4. Now Balkis (or Bilkis in the Koran) was the original Spice Girl: yea, even an hundred generations before the Lady Thatcher of Kesteven took on that flattering title.
5. For *Bilkis (or Balkis)* came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem with a very great company: and camels that bore spices, and gold in abundance, *and precious stones*.
6. And when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not. And her hardest question ever since has proved to be: who exactly was the Queen of Sheba?
7. For Hollywood sayeth that she was Gina Lollobrigida: dancing before a rather subdued Yul Brynner with the voluptuous wiles of Salome or the serpent in the garden eastward of Eden.
8. Some wise men say that she came from Saba in Arabia: though the trade routes did not make that barren land rich enough for the great queen, until the years of many generations after Solomon had slept with his fathers.
9. But Haile Selassie, the Lion of Judah, said that the Queen whom the *Ethiopians* call Makeda or Melkarth was the founder of his royal line.
10. And that raiseth the other judgment of Solomon: did Solomon really know the Queen of Sheba, or were they just good friends?
11. For the holy books of scrip*ture are silent as the lizard* and the mole in the wilderness on this matter: but generally people have assumed the worst, or to look at it another way, the best.
12. Since the Prophet Josephus, the Europeanites have said that the great Queen was black but comely: in the manner of Black Athene, the strange new Ashtaroth worshipped by the Philistines.
13. Verily, from Chartres to Cor*beil (now in the Louvre), and* from Tintoretto to Piero della Francesca, the Europeanites have graved images of her as an African, with negro servants.
14. Moreover, they say that she had a webbed foot like unto a goose in the River Jordan: hence they call her *La Reine Pédauque, pied d'oie* or goosefoot.
15. Solomon was filled with wonder at the mystery of her feet: accordingly he laid down a floor of crystal which caused the Queen to lift her robe, for she mistook the crystal for water, even for the Red Sea which she may or may not have crossed on her journey to Jerusalem.
16. And lo, she had hairy legs and a cloven hoof: that was a dirty trick of Solomon's.
17. In his *Solomon and Balkis*, the scribe Robert Browning is in no doubt that the Queen wanted from Solomon something more lovely even than wisdom: and Yeats's poem *Solomon to Sheba* makes them lovers. Selah. Let us hope that he was right.
18. The timbrels and psalteries of Handel's entry of the Queen of Sheba in *Solomon* openeth every concert and many weddings. Moreover Goldmark's bubbly *Queen of Sheba* sitteth on the cusp between opera and operetta, where the two psalms and trumpets shall meet.
19. The diggers who dig for the ashes of Sheba will never find her: *for whoso diggeth a pit* shall fall therein, and he that rolleth a potsherd from the fables of antiquity, it will return upon him.
20. For Solomon and the Queen of Sheba are better than chronicles and greater than mighty kings: they are the foundation document of the story of love between the races, which lasteth from generation unto generation.

McTeddy

AS THE remnants of the Conser*vative Party mull over the pros*pects for their Shadow Cabinet posts, a fiery contender is being tipped for the job of Scottish spokesman. Without a Scottish (or Welsh) constituency to its name, the party will have to choose a representative from south of the Border. Step forward Sir Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend, a formidable Scot and a Euro-basher to boot.



Teddy: tipped

"Yes, it's true," he said yesterday. "*Some people have made me an of*fer but, in fairness, nobody can make me an offer until there is a new leader."

Taylor has form in Scotland. *From 1964 to 1979 he was MP for* Glasgow Cathcart, and he was once a junior minister in the Scottish Office. When the Tories won in 1979, Margaret Thatcher wanted to make him Scottish Secretary, but he lost his seat. When he won his present seat, on the south coast, she called him Secretary of State for Southend.

THE TIMES DIARY

Inconvenience

LAVATORIES *top the agenda in* the Serjeant-at-Arms' office at Westminster, where the huge influx of female MPs will place unusual demands on the facilities at *the House of Commons*.

Newcomers will have to hang on until the summer recess, when plumbers move in to convert a section of the Gents in each division lobby into a *Ladies*. Further alterations are certain. "It is a problem we are considering because the numbers are disproportionate," says James Robertson, the assistant Serjeant-at-Arms. "In due course, we may have an even balance of men and women."

The most radical suggestion comes from the far-left MP Judy Mallaber, who ousted Phillip Oppenheim in Derbyshire's Amber Valley: "There is a parliamentary shooting gallery and I am sure that we can get rid of that to make the *space*."

Top Gunn

THE RUSH among disheartened Tories to appear in print is being closely monitored by Conservative Central Office, which is battling to keep a lid on the public recriminations and exposés.

Among those under the steely gaze of the Tory apparatchiks is Sheila Gunn, a chatty press attaché and former *Times* journalist who shepherded the Majors through the campaign and became a close friend. She has indicated her intention to write a book. The journalist in her should produce something full of riveting anecdotes about John and Norma, so let's hope the Tory thought police don't cramp her style.

Punch pulled

IS the sun already setting on Mohamed Al Fayed's publishing empire, *Liberty*, which revived *Punch* magazine only to sack its Editor Peter McKay after two months? As the circulation of his Knightsbridge pamphlet nosedives amid talk of a relaunch, I hear that Liberty's affable chairman, Stewart Steven, the former Editor of London's *Evening Standard*, is about to leave because there is nothing for him to do.

"At present I am staying where I am," insists the grandee brought in to oversee *Punch* and buy more titles on the back of its success. "I didn't think it was a lifetime's career." My guess is he'll be out by *the end of the month*.

"That's the last time I vote Labour, Mrs Blair"

Phone pole

COMMUNICATIONS technology at the Duke of Marlborough's Blenheim estate is due to be updated, with the erection of an 80ft telephone mast. Locals are understandably livid.

The duke, who is negotiating with Mercury, has sensibly sited the thing a couple of miles away *from his Vanburgh pile, at the vil*lage of Wootton, out of the line of sight from his windows. "It's a scandal," says the parish chairman, Ben Brook. "The transmitters are some of the ugliest structures in the countryside. To even consider putting one up at the entrance to a conservation village is monstrous."

Jennifer: detected

● *A frightful fuss has been made by the Post Office over publicity material dispatched by Channel 4 for Alan Bleasdale's new murder mystery,* Melissa, *starring Jennifer Ehle. Included in the package was a box of chocolates which contained a fake metal bullet. The bullets sent the PO's metal detectors and security devices haywire. "We were very concerned by the items," says the Post Office, but having investigated and rapped Channel 4 over the knuckles, it eventually agreed to deliver the boxes.*

P·H·S

UK BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES

THE FREEDOM FILES

A Bill needs to follow the White Paper fast

Since 1974, a Freedom of Information Act has figured in Labour manifestos. When Labour won the 1974 election, the pledge was quietly filed in the pending tray and left there. Some ministers would be happy with a repeat performance. In the long campaign that has just ended, the issue was less than prominent on the hustings. Although this is one instance where legislation could easily have been prepared in advance, next week's Queen's Speech will provide only for a White Paper, with no timetable for a Bill.

The Government insists, however, that it means business this time. History teaches that if it does, it should move swiftly. The enthusiasm even of the most democratically inclined politicians for freedom of information legislation tends to wane the longer they are in office. From their first days in the job, they begin to take decisions which might later be embarrassing. The appeal of transparency becomes daily less seductive.

The case for prompt action by this Government is unusually compelling. The layers of dissimulation surrounding arms sales to Iraq unwrapped by Sir Richard Scott damaged public faith in Whitehall as well as ministers; sleaze has tainted not just those involved, but Parliament itself. In Sir Richard's words, "if government insists on secrecy for the inner workings of the government machine, is it in a position to be surprised if criticism is ill-informed?"

The Prime Minister has made trust his theme; a Freedom of Information Act would help to convince voters that the new Government will keep the cupboards clean. Moreover, it is absurd that information on Britain not available here can be obtained under the US Freedom of Information Act. Putting this right would fit into a modernising political agenda.

Prompt action is made easier because the legislative task has been simplified by Tory open government reforms of Whitehall. Since 1994, civil servants have been expected to abide by a code of practice which requires them to provide, on request, quick and adequate supplies of facts and analysis, including the reasons for decisions taken.

Since last year, new rules have cleared millions of official papers for public scrutiny. The Conservative White Paper to reform Section Two of the Official Secrets Act is there to be enacted as it stands. The civil service has had time to adjust to a more open style of government.

The Bill must however be sensibly framed. Openness has to be a relative concept, not an absolute; good government may be encouraged by transparency, but is not synonymous with disclosure. Classification will still be necessary in the public interest; Mr Blair is hardly the man to dispense with Cabinet confidentiality. There are potential drawbacks to all such legislation, beginning with the disincentive to civil servants to be frank when setting out policy options. An exception to guaranteed disclosure should be advice to ministers which was rejected.

The information that most people will seek out will not, judging by other countries where freedom of information Acts are in place, concern the secret working of government departments but their personal files — tax records, social security, police records or information about their state pensions. The Government will in any case be required by a European Union directive to make much of this available; that is another reason for moving speedily ahead with a Freedom of Information Bill.

Ideally, this should be an all-party project. Tories believe in returning power from the State to the individual and that should be the Bill's primary purpose. New Labour has adopted a similar concept of "partnership" with the voters. Access to information may not guarantee democracy, but, because it draws power out from the governing to the governed, it is its indispensable lubricant. To move up the legislative queue, this Bill will require, however, a forceful champion; David Clark, the head of the Office of Public Service, is unlikely to be strong enough on his own. Mr Blair has called it "a change that is absolutely fundamental to how we see politics developing in this country". Yes, Prime Minister: one for you.

FOOTSTEPS TO EMU

Some are starting to see a sinister plot

First, the Bank of England is made independent; then a passionate enthusiast for a single currency is sent to negotiate completion of the European single market; and the next day, rumours surface that the Treasury intends to put the pound back into the exchange-rate mechanism. Is Labour about to commit to the single currency?

Publicly the position has not changed. Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, still says it is unlikely that Britain will go into EMU, at least in the first wave. The Treasury yesterday denied that it was the source of the rumour, which conveniently caused sterling to fall on international markets. And Sir David Simon, former chairman of BP, who is now Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness, is not Minister for Europe at the Foreign Office, negotiating at the intergovernmental conference.

The new Government's first few acts in office can be interpreted in two conflicting ways. The worrying interpretation is that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, wants to prepare Britain gradually for monetary union so that when decision day arrives, the move will seem almost inevitable. This was how Nigel Lawson and Geoffrey Howe bounced Margaret Thatcher into allowing sterling to join the ERM. Mr Brown's instinct is to ensure that Britain's options remain genuinely open. To put about a rumour that he wanted to rejoin the ERM in the future at a rate of DM2.50 would help to weaken the overvalued pound, which is a big threat to the continuance of the recovery. If it made traders more inclined to believe that Britain would submit to European monetary discipline, so be it.

This is a dangerous game, however, if Labour has no intention of fulfilling market expectations. As Anatole Kaletsky argues on page 29, an independent Bank of England is likely to increase the upward pressure on the pound. Traders want to buy sterling because it offers high interest rates in a country with a healthy economy and with a monetary policy given credibility by its new-found independence from political pressure. The more the pound strengthens, the more tempted Mr Brown may be to insulate himself from currency problems by subsuming sterling into EMU.

Before Eurosceptics panic, however, they should consider the opposite interpretation. Perhaps all this melodious European mood music is being played in order to soften the irritation of Britain's European partners if the country decides to stay out of EMU. Maybe the Bank has been made independent both as a sign of good will, to show that the option is being taken seriously, and as an added discipline for sterling should the single currency go ahead without Britain.

This is not inconceivable. Opinion at the top of the Labour Party has been moving against the single currency for the past couple of years. Mr Cook is very sceptical, and Mr Blair's early enthusiasm has been tempered by consideration of the economic arguments against it. Even Mr Brown has said nothing particularly positive about EMU of late. Any pragmatic government would surely want to see the single currency up and running successfully for a few years before exercising an option to join.

Which of the two interpretations is correct will not become clear for some time. Even if Labour does not intend to join EMU, ministers will not rule it out. By the autumn, it will be time to say whether Britain will join the first wave. Staying out then will not preclude later membership. The best defence against that is forcefully expressed views from the business community and the public. Mr Blair is nothing if not political: he is unlikely to fight a referendum battle that he cannot win.

THE GAME'S AFOOT

New rules for the power players of central Asia

In about 12 years time the markets of Asia will demand an estimated 11 million barrels of oil a day. At the heart of the continent lies the world's last big landlocked oil reserve that has yet to be properly exploited. Beneath the desert and the steppes lie billions of barrels of oil, enough to satisfy the growing industries of India, China and Pakistan. The difficulty is getting the oil to the market. At present, the only pipelines lead north to the Soviet Union. The former southern Soviet republics want economic independence and, to Russian consternation, have enlisted Western oil companies in the race to build new pipelines across turbulent tribal battlefields. A new Great Game is afoot.

The sums involved are as massive as the proposed pipelines. The most ambitious would take gas and oil almost 5,000 miles east to the Chinese coast, at a cost of $12 billion. It would dive under the Sea of Japan to surface again in the heartland of Japanese industry at a further cost of $10 billion. This joint American-Chinese-Japanese project is still a dream. The more immediate proposals are to transport the energy south to the Arabian Sea ports. But not only must the pipelines cross the Hindu Kush; they must overcome political obstacles almost as precipitous. With Washington's new sanctions against Iran already in place, no American company will agree to the quickest and easiest route, across Iran. That leaves only Afghanistan. The Taleban have seen their chance.

For all their suspicion of Western influence, the Islamic extremists now controlling Kabul are quietly meeting oil emissaries behind high walls. Despite Western revulsion at their policies, the Americans, along with Pakistan, are giving tacit support to Kabul in the hope of valuable concessions. Political intrigue and strategic calculation is as intense as anything seen a century ago.

This time the Central Asian countries themselves are the prize. With undeveloped markets, massive reserves and a pressing need for investment, the heart of Asia wants urgent Western help. Moscow is playing a desperate game to sabotage attempts to reestablish old patterns of trade. The New Game is being played with little regard for the old rules.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN **Telephone** 0171-782 5000

Choice of leader for the Tories

From Mr Geoffrey Gelberg

Sir, As deputy chairman of my local Conservative association, I am concerned at the possibility of the next Tory leader being elected by a post-"meltdown" handful of a mere 164 MPs. These are the survivors of those who got it so wrong in 1990 and the odds are that because of the vociferous and out-of-touch Eurosceptics in their ranks they will get it wrong this time too.

In my view the only way forward is to give each of the 600-odd Tory associations the same vote as each of the successful MPs. With some 800 votes being cast, the winner would for the first time be entitled to claim the support of the Conservative grass roots.

Then, if we err, we shall have ourselves to blame and not just the elected rump.

Yours truly,
GEOFFREY GELBERG,
37 Haslemere Avenue, NW4.
May 8.

From the Chairman of the Scottish Conservative Candidates' Association and others

Sir, The task of the next leader of the Conservative Party will be to oversee the rebuilding of the party throughout Great Britain. As Scottish Conservatives we believe this process must be radical and comprehensive.

In the 50 years since the war the Conservative Party in Scotland has declined from a position where it held a majority of the parliamentary seats to one where it holds no seats at all. The symptoms of this decline are apparent in the party in England; an outdated organisation, an ageing membership, and pitifully small representation in local government. We need to act now to prevent a total collapse.

One of the problems inherent in having no representation at Westminster is that we have no say in the leadership election. Were we in Parliament we would vote for William Hague. He has the vitality, energy and intellectual ability to rebuild our party and lead us back to government. Equally important, he has recognised the need to rebuild the party across Britain. We trust that our colleagues in the south will take note.

Yours faithfully,
STRUAN STEVENSON,
Chairman,
ADAM BRUCE
(Vice-Chairman),
ALISTER JACK
(Treasurer),
Scottish Conservative
Candidates' Association,
c/o West Flat,
Gilston, Leven, Fife.
May 7.

From Professor Emeritus Edward Garden

Sir, After its defeat in 1979, the Labour Party lurched to the left and became unelectable. The same fate awaits the Tory party if, after the catastrophe of May 1, it veers to the right. This should be borne in mind by the MPs who will elect a new Tory leader, comparatively few as they are in number.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD GARDEN,
Balchraggan Farm House,
Kirkhill, Inverness.
May 8.

From Mr Rupert Symons

Sir, The position in which the Conservative Party now finds itself is very different to that of the Labour Party after the 1979 election.

The Labour Party needed to rethink and refashion its whole political philosophy. Many argue that new Labour has only now become electable because of its espousal of the Thatcherite status quo.

The Conservative Party does not now need to be "reborn" in policy terms — new Conservatism is not required. Instead, the party needs to be seen as having a renewed appetite for government and a revitalised ability to govern effectively. That means the people at the top have to change. There is no point in trying to present the old faces to the electorate in five years' time and pretending that they have somehow become different people.

I firmly believe that William Hague is the only possible candidate who could form an effective Opposition and take the party through the next five years successfully.

Yours faithfully,
R. SYMONS,
18 Bishopswood Road, N6.
May 6.

From Daljit Sehbai

Sir, With six leaders standing to replace John Major and an electorate of only 164 MPs, we have a classic example of too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

Yours faithfully,
D. SEHBAI,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
May 8.

Business letters, page 29
Sport letters, page 41

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Independence for Bank of England

From Mr Walter Grey

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("A steel cage for the Iron Chancellor", May 7) draws a quite inappropriate analogy between Gordon Brown's "sudden" announcement of operational independence for the Bank of England on the one hand, and John Major's "equally unexpected and 'irreversible' decision to join the exchange-rate mechanism" on the other.

First, there was nothing wrong with joining the ERM as such. What was wrong, briefly, is that we did so too late, and therefore at an unsustainably high rate, and then, right up to the eve of Black Wednesday, stubbornly opposed a general ERM realignment, repeatedly offered in the wake of German reunification, under which sterling's overvaluation could have been corrected quite painlessly.

Indeed, far from continuing to blame what went wrong on the ERM (which is, of course, still going as strong as ever, if not stronger, without us) rather than on ourselves, we should now, given the ERM's widened fluctuation bands and, above all, our own reformed monetary regime (and already improved economic performance), consider rejoining the ERM sooner rather than later.

Second, and most important, what Kaletsky censures as now being the Bank's — like the German Bundesbank's — "virtually exclusive preoccupation with prices" is, in fact, a positive virtue. Besides working, as it must, against inflation and deflation alike, price stability is a prime prerequisite of sustained growth free from the ravages of the boom-bust ("economic") cycle, and of other, hitherto denied or elusive, social as well as economic benefits.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER GREY,
12 Arden Road, Finchley, N3.
May 7.

From Lord Catto

Sir, My father, who was the last Governor of the publicly quoted Bank of England and the first Governor of the nationalised Bank, made every effort, in the framing of the Act of Parliament, to ensure that the new Bank had as much independence from the Treasury as possible. To this end his insistence that the appointment of the governor should be for a fixed term has had the result, over the past half century, that governors have not been changed when a new administration has been voted into power by the people.

He was also concerned that friction between the City and Whitehall should be kept to a minimum. After all, he had himself been sitting, with Maynard Keynes, as one of the two advisers to the wartime Chancellors of the Exchequer. Unfortunately the proposal that control of bank rate would continue to be exercised by the Bank of England in consultation with the Treasury gradually faded away; this was publicly acknowledged by Denis Healey in a Budget speech announcing a change in base rate.

Much of this country's problems with inflation over the postwar period, which hurt the poor and the pensioners most, stem from the lack of confidence not only by us but by the world at large in the ability of any British government to control it. The recent Government under Mr Major had already made good progress but the new Labour Government's action announced yesterday will reinforce this.

I am sure that my father would have welcomed the proposal that the right place for the control of interest rates is in an independent central bank.

Yours faithfully,
CATTO
(President),
Deutsche Morgan Grenfell
Group plc,
23 Great Winchester Street, EC2.
May 7.

From Mr Edwin Lee

Sir, It is reassuring to know that after successful supervision of the likes of Johnson Matthey, BCCI and Barings the Bank of England is now to be put in charge of the nation's interest-rate policy.

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN LEE,
Rowde House, Rowde, Wiltshire.
May 7.

From Mr Peter C. Knee

Sir, Now that the Bank of England is effectively to gain its independence, is it not also time that it was renamed Bank of Britain? A Scottish Chancellor should relish such an overdue move.

Yours sincerely,
P. C. KNEE,
46 Burkes Road,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.
May 7.

Major's admiration for Rab Butler

From Mr D. R. Thorpe

Sir, Recrimination is an inevitable aftermath of electoral defeat. As Arthur Balfour ruefully observed: "It is not a principle of the Conservative Party to stab its leaders in the back, but I must confess that it often appears to be a practice." However, for Tim Hames ("How the campaign was lost", May 2) to criticise John Major for his admiration of the pragmatism of Rab Butler, on the grounds that "if Butler's advice had been accepted in 1940, Britain would have ceded Europe to Nazi Germany", is not sustainable as a serious historical comment.

Rab Butler's discussion, when Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, of possible peace terms during an informal meeting with the Swedish Ambassador, Björn Prytz, in St James's Park on June 17, 1940, can hardly be deemed "advice".

Foreign policy would be determined by the Secretary of State, Lord Halifax, as Prytz's telegram to his Government that night acknowledged. Although Butler later conceded that even discussing the possibility of negotiations might be interpreted as defeatism, especially on the day of the fall of France, the episode was really an example, as the late Lord Colyton stressed, of Butler's deliberate use of "revealing and injudicious comments in order to extract responses from his listeners".

John Major's admiration for Rab Butler on both the personal and political level is well founded. The dignified manner of his own departure from Downing Street, publicly acknowledged by the incoming Prime Minister, is a direct parallel with the way in which Butler responded to his great disappointment in October 1963; and his determination that the Conservative Party should seek to rebuild at the earliest opportunity mirrors Rab Butler's belief that the 1945 landslide defeat should be for the Conservatives "a healthy opportunity and compelling motive for bringing both their policies and characteristic modes of expression up to date".

As Butler's restructuring of Conservative philosophy in the years of opposition paved the way for an early return to office in 1951, present-day post mortems should not begin by vicarious obloquy aimed at the principal architect of postwar Conservative revival.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. THORPE,
Brooke Hall,
Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey.
May 6.

Pink peril

From Lieutenant-Commander Philip Barber, RN (retd)

Sir, Surely Leander succumbed to a "monstrous fleet" unless the "regiment" walks on water (Ms Katharine Sinderson's letter, May 2; see also letter, May 5); in which case the MCC, the male bastion targeted by Ms Sinderson, may indeed have much to fear.

Yours aye,
PHILIP BARBER,
Longpuddle House,
Nob Hill, Norton Juxta Twycross,
Atherstone, Warwickshire.
May 5.

Nesting habits

From Mr M. J. Clarke

Sir, Mr Phil Ridgway's house martins (letter, April 25; see also letters, May 3 and 5) may not be particularly unusual in working as a threesome at nestbuilding. However, I was surprised to read that they were building in his stables. I thought house martins always nested on the outside of a building, usually under the eaves, leaving the interior to the swallows.

Could this be an attempt to avoid publicity?

Yours sincerely,
M. J. CLARKE,
20 Whitehaven Gardens,
Manchester 20.
May 4.

Thereby hangs a tail

From Dr A. M. Parsons

Sir, The exploding rat theory for a thatch fire is not as silly as Tim Jones makes it appear (report, May 6). Phosphorus can be prepared in a dangerous form by boiling down urine and heating the residue with sand to a red heat in a retort. However, it seems unlikely that a dead rat could do this.

Microbes are better chemists. They can reduce organophosphates to phosphorous hydride (phosphine) which, in an impure form, is spontaneously inflammable. It is not necessary for a rodenticide to be present; dead rats contain sufficient organophosphate for the reaction to occur without such additives.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. PARSONS,
14 Woodlands,
St Neots, Cambridgeshire.
May 6.

From Mr Norman Coats

Sir, I have heard the old adage about journalists not letting the facts get in the way of a good story, but did no one stop to consider how the spontaneously combustible form of phosphorus could have been laid for the rats in the first place? I could give you more details of the allotropy of phosphorus, but it's not much of a story.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN COATS,
21a St Michaels Close,
Madeley, Telford, Shropshire.
May 6.

Delays in policing the law's failings

From Mr H. P. K. Bradley

Sir, I would be interested to know how others with complaints against solicitors deal with the frustration of working with the Law Society's policing body, the Office of the Supervision of Solicitors, based in Leamington Spa.

My own quite straightforward complaint was notified to the OSS in early September last year. As far as I can see, they are no nearer resolving the situation than they were then.

The officer handling my case tells me she has 300 other cases and mine must take its course. A letter in support of my complaint, faxed to Leamington on April 4, had not even been read by the officer on May 1 when I phoned her, although "it will receive priority when it comes to the top of the pile".

Is the idea that Joe Public will become so disenchanted that they drop the charges?

Yours faithfully,
H. P. K. BRADLEY,
108 Upper Richmond Road West,
East Sheen, SW14.
May 6.

Roy Strong's diaries

From Mr John Goodwin

Sir, During the end of the very period, 1967 to 1987, when Sir Roy Strong was keeping his extravagantly indiscreet diaries (extracts, May 5-8), he wrote an enjoyable article in *The Times* on diaries in general. This was on February 4, 1984, when he showed a strong preference for those that cover "visions of aesthetic loveliness and delight" and those from an earlier age, while disapproving somewhat of those, like Sir Peter Hall's, that deal candidly with living personalities and contemporary events.

I don't at all blame Sir Roy for sidestepping the views he then expressed publicly. The most readable diaries are often recklessly frank. But here, surely, is an illuminating — even heartening — example of how splendidly flexible the human mind can be.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GOODWIN
(Editor, *Peter Hall's Diaries*,
Hamish Hamilton, 1983),
52a Digby Mansions,
Lower Mall, W6.
May 8.

Changing archaeology

From Dr Martin Welch

Sir, Professor Geoffrey Wainwright, the Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage, seems to imply in his letter (April 29; see also letters, April 23 and May 5) that quantity of excavation is more important than its quality. Many academic archaeologists are, however, unconvinced that the plethora of low-grade evaluation excavation does provide the "rich research potential" he claims.

Professor Wainwright extols the merits of "protection" rather than excavation, but the fact that English Heritage is funding research into the long-term effects of protection schemes highlights how little is really known about them. They are in effect carrying out an experiment on much of our archaeological heritage which may or may not prove successful.

At a public inquiry into such a scheme for a very important Anglo-Saxon cemetery site in Croydon, English Heritage persisted in pushing its "protection" scheme, involving resealing the site under a car park, even though expert opinion was clear that human remains and grave goods were likely to deteriorate as a result.

Virtually every expert in the field of early Anglo-Saxon archaeology, including a representative of the British Museum, agreed that there was a good research case for the fullest possible excavation of this site. The developer's costs would not have exceeded what was required for partial excavation under the English Heritage scheme. Croydon's elected councillors saw the merits of the research case, but English Heritage did not.

Archaeology in England is indeed "in the doldrums" and both academic and contract archaeologists are increasingly frustrated by the dead hand of this quango.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN WELCH,
University College London,
Institute of Archaeology,
31-34 Gordon Square, WC1.
May 5.

Ministerial help

From Mr David Mitchell

Sir, I find Dr Norman Dyson's solution to the drought (letter, May 7) — instituting more bank holidays — unduly expensive and quite unnecessary.

Surely there is a good precedent for a swift cure. In the great drought of 1976 the then Labour Government appointed a minister for the drought — a chap called Denis Howell. This was the most effective ministerial appointment ever made. Within two weeks the rains came — and stayed.

This could be a tremendous opportunity for the new Government to demonstrate its effectiveness.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MITCHELL,
7 Cedar Heights,
Richmond, Surrey.
May 7.

[illegible]

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 7: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning visited the Omagh Leisure Centre, met beneficiaries and members of the local community and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Tyrone (the Duke of Abercorn).

His Royal Highness later visited Harbison Farm, Aghadowey, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Londonderry (Colonel Sir Michael McCorkell).

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, this afternoon visited the 1st Battalion at Ballykelly.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 8: The Queen and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother were present today at a Reception at the Caledonian Club, Halkin Street, London SW1, given by the Officers who served in *HMS Vanguard* during the Royal Tour of South Africa in 1947 to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Tour.

The Lord Carter was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Captain of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and received from The Queen his Stick of Office.

The Lord McIntosh of Haringey was received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Captain of the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and received from Her Majesty his Stick of Office.

The Lord Haskel, the Lord Whitty and Mr Douglas Hoyle were received by The Queen upon their appointment as Lords in Waiting to Her Majesty.

The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton and the Baroness Gould of Potternewton were received by The Queen upon their appointment as Baronesses in Waiting to Her Majesty.

Mr George Mudie MP was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Treasurer of the Household when Her Majesty handed to him his Wand of Office.

Mr Thomas McAvoy MP was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Comptroller of the Household when Her Majesty handed to him his Wand of Office.

Mrs Janet Anderson MP was received by The Queen upon her appointment as Vice-Chamberlain of the Household when Her Majesty handed to her her Wand of Office.

The Rt Hon John Morris MP was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Attorney General.

Mr Charles Falconer was received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Solicitor General.

The following were received by The Queen upon their appointments: Mr Andrew Hardie (Lord Advocate), Mr Colin Boyd (Solicitor General for Scotland), Mr Peter Mandelson MP (Minister of State, Cabinet Office), Mr Geoffrey Robinson MP (Paymaster General, Treasury), Ms Dawn Primarolo MP (Financial Secretary, Treasury), Ms Helen Liddell MP (Economic Secretary, Treasury), Mr Alun Michael MP (Minister of State, Home Office), Ms Joyce Quin MP (Minister of State, Home Office), Mr Douglas Henderson MP (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Mr Derek Fatchett MP (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Sir David Simon (Minister of State, Trade and Industry: Trade and Competitiveness in Europe), the Lord Clinton-Davis (Minister for Trade), Mr Ian McCartney MP (Minister of State, Trade and Industry: Competitiveness), Mr John Battle MP (Minister of State, Trade and Industry: Industry, Energy, Science and Technology), Mr Michael Meacher, MP (Minister for the Environment, Transport and the Regions), Ms Hilary Armstrong MP (Minister of State, Environment, Transport and the Regions), Mr Richard Caborn MP (Minister of State, Environment, Transport and the Regions), Mr Frank Field MP (Minister of State for Welfare Reform), Mr Adam Ingram MP (Minister of State, Northern Ireland: Security, Police, Criminal Justice, Prisons, Economic Development), Mr Paul Murphy MP (Minister of State, Northern Ireland: Political Development, Finance, Personnel, Information), Mr Tom Clarke MP (Minister for Film and Tourism), Mr Andrew Smith MP (Minister for Employment and Disability Rights), Mr Stephen Byers MP (Minister for School Standards), the Baroness Blackstone (Minister for Education and Employment, Lords), the Rt Hon Dr John Gilbert MP (Minister for Defence Procurement, Defence), Dr John Reid MP (Minister for the Armed Forces, Defence), Mr Alan Milburn MP (Minister of State, Health), Ms Tessa Jowell MP (Minister for Public Health), the Baroness Jay of Paddington (Minister of State, Health), Mr Jeff Rooker MP (Minister of State, Agriculture), Mr Henry McLeish MP (Minister for Home Affairs and Devolution, Scotland) and Mr Brian Wilson MP (Minister for Education and Industry, Scotland).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this morning chaired a meeting of the trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, and Life Member and Gold Card Holder, the Variety Club of Great Britain, this afternoon attended a Sports Award Luncheon at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow, Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this evening chaired the 1997 Prince Philip Lecture and attended a Dinner at 8 John Adam Street, London WC2.

May 8: The Princess Royal today visited Hampshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mrs Mary Fagan).

Her Royal Highness this morning opened Heywood House, the Lord Mayor Treloar School, Upper Froyle, Alton.

The Princess Royal later visited Marwell Zoological Park, Winchester, and opened Penguin World.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new Indoor Riding School at the Peter Ashley Equestrian Centre, Fort Widley, Portsmouth.

The Princess Royal, President, Save The Children Fund, this evening attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace for the General Assembly and Members Meeting of the Save the Children Alliance.

May 8: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this morning attended a meeting of the trustees at Buckingham Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 8: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, this morning received Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Westcott upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer 7 Regiment (Volunteers) and Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Rowland-Jones upon assuming the appointment.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 8: The Princess of Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this evening attended a Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7, celebrating the Royal Choral Society's One Hundred and Twenty Fifth Anniversary and given in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, of which Her Royal Highness is President.

May 8: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Merseyside and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).

In the morning His Royal Highness opened Nutgrove Primary School, St Helens, and afterwards opened the Flexible Learning Centre at St Helen's College.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester visited Stoves plc, Prescot.

Later, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, His Royal Highness visited the Cardiothoracic Centre, Liverpool, where Their Royal Highnesses opened the Robert Owen House.

The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Newcastle upon Tyne and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison).

Her Royal Highness opened the Eye Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary and Associated Hospital's NHS Trust, Queen Victoria Road, and afterwards visited the Marie Curie Cancer Care Centre, Marie Curie Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne.

YORK HOUSE
May 8: The Duke of Kent, President, this evening attended a Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7, Celebrating the Royal Choral Society's One Hundred and Twenty Fifth Anniversary.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
May 8: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon attended a Luncheon given by the Friends of Templeton College at the Gibson Hall, Bishopsgate, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, President, subsequently attended the Annual General Court of the Royal Humane Society at Lettsom House, Chandos Street, London W1.

Princess Alexandra, Patron, later received Captain Claire Taylor upon relinquishing the appointment of Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and Captain Patricia Hambling on assuming the appointment.

WAYNE ALLEN

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother leaving the Caledonian Club yesterday after she and the Queen had attended a reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Tour of South Africa in *HMS Vanguard*

Miss Anna Pollak

A commemoration of the life and work of Miss Anna Pollak, mezzo-soprano, was held yesterday at St Paul's Covent Garden. The Rev Raymond L. Ramsden, Chaplain to the Royal Opera House, officiated.

Miss Wendy Toye read the prologue to Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, which Miss Pollak spoke in the Sadler's Wells production in the role of the Muse, Calliope. Miss Penelope Wilton read John Gardner's prologue *To the Moon and Sixpence*. Mr Peter Barkworth read *So Cheerful* by Rosemary Anne Sisson and Mr Alec McCowen read *Milk for the Cat* by Harold Munro.

Miss Rita Cullis, soprano, Miss Sally Burgess, mezzo-soprano, Mr Alan Opie, baritone, and Miss Susan Gorton, contralto, conducted by Mr Victor Morris, sang during the service. Mr Anthony Besch paid tribute.

Lord High Almoner

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, to be Lord High Almoner to Her Majesty on the retirement of the Right Rev John Taylor.

Service reception

***HMS Vanguard* 1947**
The Queen and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attended a reception held yesterday at the Caledonian Club to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Tour of South Africa in *HMS Vanguard*. Officers who served on the tour were present.

His Honour John Streeter, DL

A Memorial Service for His Honour John Streeter, DL, will be held on May 21, 1997, at the Church of All Saints, Maidstone, at 3pm. Enquiries 0171 353 9421.

Walthamstow Hall

Mr Peter Gosling, MA, FCA, has been appointed as Bursar and Clerk to the Governors of Walthamstow Hall. He will take up his position on August 1, 1997, on the retirement of the present holder, Mr Guy Wilkin.

Dinners

West Yorkshire Lieutenancy
The Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire presided at a dinner of the West Yorkshire Lieutenancy held last night at Leeds University.

Old Stoic Society
Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG, President of the Stoic Society, was the guest of honour and principal speaker at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal Automobile Club. Mr John Fingleton, chairman of the society, presided and Mr Jeremy Nichols, Headmaster of Stowe School, also spoke.

Parish Clerks' Company
The Rev Graham Blacktop, Master of the Parish Clerks' Company, officiated and the Rev Richard Hayes preached the sermon at Holy Communion celebrated yesterday at St Mary Woolnoth. Afterwards, the Master, assisted by the Wardens, Mr O.W.H Clark and Mr J.D. Hebblethwaite, presided at the annual election court dinner at Innholders' Hall. Mr S.J. Murphy, Parish Clerk of St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall, and the Archdeacon of York also spoke. The Masters of the Upholders' and Musicians' Companies, the Master of the Fellowship of Hackney Carriage Drivers and Alderman Sir Brian Jenkins were among those present.

Luncheon

The Tablet
Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, Apostolic Nuncio, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given yesterday by the directors of *The Tablet* at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge.

At Home

Lady Mayoress of Westminster
The Lady Mayoress of Westminster was the host at an At Home held yesterday at Westminster City Hall for Diplomatic wives.

Reception

British Red Cross
The Ambassador of Switzerland and Mme Nordmann were the hosts at a reception held yesterday at the Swiss Embassy in aid of the British Red Cross and to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Mrs Elspeth Thomas, Chairman of British Red Cross, was the speaker. A dinner was held at the embassy afterwards.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Brown, militant Abolitionist, Torrington, Connecticut, 1800; Sir James Barrie, dramatist and novelist, Kirriemuir, 1860; Lilian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, London, 1874; Zita, former empress of Austria, Viareggio, 1892; Howard Carter, archaeologist, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun, 1922, Swaffham, Norfolk, 1874; Barbara Woodhouse, animal trainer, Dublin, 1910.

DEATHS: William Bradford, Pilgrim Father, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1657; Nicolaus Zinzendorf, leader of the Moravian Church, Herrnhut, Germany, 1760; Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, dramatist and poet, Weimar, Germany, 1805; Joseph Gay-Lussac, chemist, Paris, 1850; Aldo Moro, five times Prime Minister of Italy, assassinated, Rome, 1978; Tenzing Norgay, Himalayan climber, Darjeeling, 1986.

Colonel Thomas Blood, an Irish adventurer, attempted to steal the Crown Jewels, 1671.

Ethiopia annexed by Italy, 1936.

The Channel Islands were liberated from German occupation, 1945.

Britain's first launderette opened in Queensway, 1949.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.H.J. Bishop
and Miss F. Knight
The engagement is announced between Harvey, second son of Mr and Mrs William H. Bishop, of Langstone, Hampshire, and Francesca, only daughter of Mr Frank Knight, of Pewsey, Wiltshire, and Mrs Jamila Knight, of Prague, Czech Republic.

Mr G.G.S. Bourne-May
and Mrs N.A.M. Dewar
The engagement is announced between Guy, younger son of the late Mr Geoffrey Bourne-May and of Mrs Bourne-May, of Oakham, Rutland, and Noëline, second daughter of the late Major John Youde and of Mrs Youde, of Auchencairn, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Mr E. Burgess
and Miss S. Beck
The engagement is announced between Edmund, son of Mr D.P.H. Burgess and Mrs K.M. Cotton, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Beck.

Mr P.J. Burnell
and Miss C.D. Crudden
The engagement is announced between Piers, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Burnell, of Corbridge, Northumberland, and Catherine, younger daughter of Mr Paul Crudden and Mrs Patricia Morton, of London.

Mr D.S. Craig
and Miss A.C. Le Sueur
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Victor Craig, of Toronto, Canada, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leicester Le Sueur, of Wilsford cum Lake, Salisbury.

Mr A. Donaldson
and Miss E.T. Gloag
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr Michael Donaldson and Mrs Dora Donaldson, of Edinburgh, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Matthew Gloag, of Airlie, Angus.

Mr A.P.J. Dunn
and Miss K.R. Wood
The engagement is announced between Aidan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Dunn, of Newlands, Glasgow, and Kathryn, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Wood, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Lieutenant Colonel S.R.M. Frazer and Ms C.J. Spiers
The engagement is announced between Simon Frazer, of Rhayader, Powys, and Caroline Jane Spiers, of Martock, Somerset.

Mr J.C. Jordan
and Miss A.S. Bindon
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs John Jordan, of Bournemouth, and Amanda, daughter of the late Mr Dennis Bindon and of Mrs Julia Williams, of Salisbury.

Mr T. Latham
and Miss S.J. Fox
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Latham, of Felixkirk, North Yorkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Vincent Fox, of Redcar, Cleveland.

Mr A. Mayes
and Miss J. Boorer
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr and Mrs S. Mayes, of Harlaxton, Lincolnshire, and Joanna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Boorer, of Quarrington, Lincolnshire.

Mr G.K.I. Moore
and Mrs R. Davis
The engagement is announced between Graham Moore, of Leicester, and Sally Davis, of Cheltenham.

Mr P.M. Murphy
and Mrs B.R. Wightman
The engagement is announced between Peter Murphy, of Langley, Essex, and Bridget Wightman, née Hedges, of Newton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr M.H. Goodwin
and Miss D.A. Waight
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr Leonard Goodwin, of Hunworth, North Norfolk, and the late Margaret Goodwin, and Deborah, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Robert Waight, of Shrewton, Salisbury.

Mr H.F.G. Morriss
and Miss A.N.S. Kirkup
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Henry Morriss, of The Old Vicarage, Lodsworth, West Sussex, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Kirkup, of Little Bec, Amport, Hampshire.

Mr D.B.T. Naylor
and Miss R.E.J. Hampson
The engagement is announced between Dominic, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Naylor, of Wrenbury, Cheshire, and Rachael, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Hampson, of Gawsworth, Cheshire.

Mr N.J. Roberts
and Miss J.N. Gretton
The engagement is announced between Nick, son of Mr and Mrs P.C. Roberts, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, and Julia, daughter of Mrs M. Gretton, of Sydney, Australia, and Mr S. Gretton.

Mr M.D. Robinson
and Miss G. Bianco
The engagement is announced between Marcus, elder son of Mr Kenneth Robinson and Mrs Myra Robinson, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Giovanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Bianco, of Sutton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr C.B.P. Stevens
and Miss E.P. Williams
The engagement is announced between Bruce, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Stevens, of The Mumbles, Wales, and Elaine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Williams, of Northwood, Middlesex.

Mr P.P. Thomson
and Miss R.L. Harold
The engagement is announced between Peter Paul, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Thomson, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Rebecca Louise, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard St John Harold, of Plymouth, Devon.

Mr A.J.B. Tweedie
and Miss L.H. Boyt
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Tweedie, of Little Hereford, Shropshire, and Lucy, daughter of Mrs Stephen Asquith, of Hinchwick, Gloucestershire, and Major Henry Boyt, of Geldeston, Norfolk.

Mr C.J.V. Williams
and Miss K.S. Knight
The engagement is announced between Charles John Verry, only son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Williams, of Pleshey, Essex, and Katrina Sarah, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Knight, of Dorking, Surrey.

Mr B.M. Winner
and Miss M. Pakenham
The engagement is announced between Bogislav, elder son of Professor Dr Matthias and Mrs Winner, of Rome, Italy, and Maria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Pakenham, of Castlepollard, Westmeath, Ireland.

Marriages

The Earl of Munster
and Dr H. Winska
The marriage took place on May 3, in Crowhurst, Surrey, between the Earl of Munster and Dr Halina Winska.

Mr R. Wilson
and Mrs P.F.G. Davidge
The marriage took place on April 12, 1997, in Towcester, between Mr Roddy Wilson and Mrs Philippa Davidge, née Lester.

Birthdays today

Mr Richard Adams, author, 77; Mr Alan Bennett, dramatist, 63; the Right Rev C.W.J. Bowles, former Bishop of Derby, 81; Miss Nina Campbell, interior designer, 52; Dr John Cook, Principal, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catharine's at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, 57; Lord Cooke of Thorndon, 71; Mr Terry Downes, boxer, 61; Mr Albert Finney, actor, 61; Mr Carlo Maria Giulini, conductor, 83; Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes, former Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh, 84; Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 59; Mr Richard Houghton, racehorse trainer, 57; Miss Glenda Jackson, MP, and actress, 61; Mr Billy Joel, singer, 50; Sir Francis Kennedy, Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, 71; General Sir Peter Leng, 72; Lord Lloyd of Berwick, 68; Mr Gavin Lyall, author, 65; Lord Justice MacDermott, 70; Miss Geraldine McEwan, actress, 65; Professor Alistair MacFarlane, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, 66; Mr Brian McMaster, chief executive, Edinburgh International Festival, 54; Sir Philip Mansfield, former diplomat, 71; Sir David Plastow, former chairman, Inchcape, 65; Mr Patrick Ryecart, actor, 45; Mr V.L. Sankey, chief executive, Reckitt and Colman, 48; Admiral Sir Victor Smith, 84.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the Garden of Remembrance, Aberfan, at 10.35; will visit Halla Euro Enterprize, Merthyr Tydfil at 11.05; and will visit the Royal Mint, Llantrisant at 12.35. The Queen will visit the Welsh Blood Service at Llantrisant 3.10.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Llantwit Major Surf Life Saving headquarters at 3.45.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. Later, as President, The Prince's Trust, he will attend The Trust's 21st anniversary royal gala at the Opera House, Manchester at 7.20.

The Duke of York will attend a grand military tattoo in aid of the Royal Star and Garter Home at the Yeovil Town Football Club at 6.30.

Prince Edward, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a concert and dinner at the Royal Naval College Greenwich at 6.55.

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Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to remain in your courts. Grant us in abundance the bounty of your house, of your holy temple. Psalm 65 : 4

BIRTHS

BARR - On 4th May 1997, to Jenny and Robbie, a daughter, Catherine Joanna, a sister to Annabel and Alexander.

BECTIVE - On May 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Susie and Christo, a daughter, Natasha, a sister for Thomas and Henry.

BELL - On March 20th, to Joanne (née Vesey) and Andrew, a beautiful daughter, Leonora Margaret, a sister for Celia.

CARTER KEALL - On Friday May 2nd 1997, to Karin (née Bentley) and Christopher, a son, William John Philip.

COLLINS - On 2nd May at The Portland Hospital, to Frances (née Truscott) and Charles, a daughter, Arabella Anne Truscott, a sister for Kit.

DE LAROQUE - On 28th April, to Rosamond (née Tollemache) and Ashley, a daughter, Rebecca.

DODGE - On 5th May, to Marianne (née Richards) and Peter, a son, William Peter James, a brother for Freddie, Emily and Oliver.

EDEN - On May 1st at The Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Joanna (née Spears) and Jack, a son, Nicholas Cazenac, a brother for Madeleine.

GRANVILLE - On 6th May, to Nicola and George, a daughter, Ella, a sister for Alice and Grace.

HAYNES - On May 1st 1997, to Beth (née Jones) and Richard, a daughter, Gabriella Elizabeth.

HOWARD - On 27th April, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Helen (née Johnson) and Rory, a daughter, Alice Mary Pitt.

ILLEDGE - On May 3rd, to Libby (née Coningsby) and Tim, a daughter, Rebecca Charlotte Kate, a sister for Benjamin and Laura. Isaiah 59.21

McNAIR SCOTT - On 6th May, to Natasha (née Stevenson) and Simon, a daughter, Charlotte.

PARKIN SHEPHERD - On Tuesday May 6th, to Jane and Danny, a son, Callum Daniel.

BIRTHS

ROBERTSON - On 2nd May in Durham, to C.K. and Deborah (née Vinson), a son, Jonathan William Gary, a brother for David Francis.

STENSLIE - On May 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Kristin and Bjorn, a sweet little baby girl, Andrea.

STEVENS - On May 3rd 1997, to Victoria (née Banbury) and James, a son, Theo Paul Richard.

DEATHS

BAMFORD - Brigadier Geoffrey CBE DSO, born May 23rd 1907, peacefully in his own home on Wednesday May 7th 1997. Sadly missed by Bill, Sue and Alice. Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday May 13th at 12.30pm in Saint's Peter and Paul Church, Swalcliffe, near Banbury, followed by interment in the churchyard. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for either the British Field Sports Society or Swalcliffe Church may be sent c/o Trinder Funeral Service, 122 Middleton Road, Banbury, OX16 8QU.

BETHLEHEM - Ronnie tragically shot and killed in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 1st May at the age of 62. The funeral, and memorial service to remember and celebrate his life, will take place at the Wolvercote Cemetery in Oxford (UK) at 2.30 pm on Friday, 9th May.

BROPHY - Lou. Suddenly at his home in Norfolk aged 72 (late of Hackney and Loughton). Enquiries to Gordon Rooney Funeral Services, Norwich, (01603) 219216.

CALDWELL - Colette Lilian, née Le Rossignol. On May 7th, peacefully in hospital, formerly of Cambridge and Belhaven Hill, Dunbar. Wife of the late William Caldwell, mother of Clare and James, much loved Granny of Freddie and Jamie. Cremation private. No flowers please, but donations to R.U.K.B.A., 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL.

CAMPBELL - Joan, peacefully, on May 4th, after many years of affectionate care from the Augustinian Nuns and Staff at St Raphael's. Adored wife of the late Alexander and very special mother to Celia, Ian, Julian and the late Jamie. A loving grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Requiem Mass on Friday 16th May at 11 am at St Raphael's, Danehill. Garden or wild flowers only or donations, if desired, to Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa), c/o Fuller and Scott Funeral Directors, The Wakelyns, Uckfield, E. Sussex. Tel: (01825) 763241.

DAVEY - Lieselotte. Peacefully at home in Polegate on May 6th 1997, aged 73 years, after a long illness. Dearly loved wife of John, much loved mother of Margret and Karin, a dearly loved Oma of Kevin, Michael and Kirsty, much loved sister of Willi, Else and families. A wonderful woman who will be sadly missed by all. Funeral Service at St Johns Church, Polegate on Wednesday May 14th at 12 noon, followed by interment at Willingdon Cemetery at 12.45 pm. Flowers to Haine & Son Ltd, 19 South Street, Eastbourne, tel: (01323) 727801.

DRAKE - Sheila Garthroyd Colonel in the ATS/WRAC's and a FANY, died aged 84 years on 28th April in Cedars Nursing Home, Shaftesbury. Dear sister of Betty and Francis of East Coker and much loved godmother and friend of Cara, Stuart and Sophie. Cremation in Yeovil on Monday 19th May at 3.00pm and Memorial Service in St Peter's Church, Shaftesbury on Friday 23rd May at 4.00pm. Flowers or donations to The Royal British Legion, c/o G.H. Cook & Sons 8-11 Bond Street, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1PE.

GIBBON - General Sir John Gibbon GCB, OBE, died peacefully on 7th May 1997, beloved husband of Bid, devoted father of John, loving grandfather of Jack and Elizabeth. Funeral private, Family only. Memorial Service to be announced later. No flowers please.

GARDINER - (Née Cooper). On May 7th, peacefully, Mary aged 91 years. Beloved wife and musical companion of the late Julian Gardiner, mother of Shirley and Dr. Robert Watkins, and dearly loved grandmother of Nicholas, Christopher and Jenny-Ann. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Wednesday May 14th at 1pm. Family flowers only, but donations for The Musicians Benevolent Fund may be sent to J.H. Kenyon Ltd., 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA, tel: (0171) 937-0757.

GRIER - Hugh Christopher, music critic, and latterly Noble Brother of Poverty, St Cross Hospital, at Winchester on 7th May, beloved father of Nicholas and husband of Elsbeth. Funeral at St Cross Church, Winchester, on Friday 16th May at 3 pm. Cut flowers only and donations to St Cross Hospital.

GROSE - Mr K.H. Grose (lately of Albury House, Berwick-on-Tweed) formerly master at Winchester College and Bradford Grammar School. Peacefully in Wansbeck General Hospital, Ashington 5th May 1997, aged 85. Cremation at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh on Tuesday 13th May at 2 pm. Friends respectfully invited.

HARLING - (Ena) Rosina Alexandra (née Darlow) BSc, aged 73, peacefully at home on 2nd May after a long struggle against ill-health, wife of Ernest, mother of Pamela, Lynda and Jonathan. Funeral at St Paul's Church, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, on Wednesday 14th May at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, 14 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DP.

HEBELER - Simon Roland Liddell on May 3rd 1997 peacefully at home in Hexham, Northumberland. Greatly loved father of Alexandra and Joanna. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St John Lee, Hexham, on Thursday May 15th at 2.15 pm.

KEIR WATSON - On 4th May 1997, Robin Keir Watson of Kelvin Court, Glasgow. Funeral private.

LANGMAID - Charles Langmaid F.R.C.S. (former Consultant Neuro-Surgeon) on May 4th in his 84th year. Husband of the late Olga and father of Paul, Helen and Sidonie and grandfather of Timothy, Emma, Jonathan and Bryony. Funeral service at Trinity Methodist Church, Newport Road, Cardiff on Thursday 15th May at 3.00pm. A private cremation will follow. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to [illegible] House, 28 Stanwell Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF6 2EY. All enquiries to James Summers and Son 01222 484504.

LLOYD - Constance Annette Cynthia, formerly Harrison (née Clemence) peacefully on 5th May 1997 aged 68 years after a long and painful illness borne with great courage and dignity, an example to everyone. Much adored mother of baby Alastair, Penelope and Christopher and grandmother of Fergus, Frederick, Jonathan and Charles. Funeral to be held on 15th May 1997 at 2 pm at Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Claremont Road, Windsor, to be followed by cremation at Bracknell Crematorium. No flowers but donations in lieu please to The Injured Jockeys Fund c/o E. Sargeant & Son, 61 St Leonards Road, Windsor, SL4 3BX.

McGLASHAN - Dr. Alan Fleming MC, Croix de Guerre with Palm, died peacefully at home on May 6th in his 99th year. Greatly beloved husband of Sasha. Funeral at the London Scottish Chapel of St Columba, Pont Street, SW1 (Lennox Gardens entrance) at 10.45 am on Wednesday 14th May. Committal at Putney Vale 12.15 pm. Flowers to Putney Vale.

OGDEN - Eric peacefully at home after a short illness. Much loved husband, father, friend and neighbour. Funeral Service and cremation at Enfield Crematorium at 2.45 pm Thursday May 15th. Any enquiries to Abbott and English, (0181) 364-0000.

PEASE - Virginia Ruth Primrose (née Hughes-Onslow) peacefully on 7th May aged 80 years. Much loved mother of Denzil, [illegible] Cremation at Mortlake Crematorium on Tuesday 13th May at 10.30 am - family only. Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 1st July at 11 am at Saint Columba's, Pont Street. Family flowers only - but donations if desired to [illegible] c/o J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8. Tel: (0171) 937-0757.

RICKARDS - Paul William (Bill) on May 3rd 1997 peacefully in hospital aged 81. Much loved husband of Mary, a loving father and grandfather. Cremation private. Thanksgiving service at St John the Baptist Church, Kirdford on Wednesday 14th May at 2pm. No flowers but donations to St John the Baptist Church. Cheques payable to Kirdford P.C.C. c/o W. Bryder & Sons, Tillington, Petworth, W. Sussex.

TULLEY - Eileen Norah peacefully at home on 7th May after a brave struggle. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation at Worth Crematorium Thursday 19th May at 4.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Marie Curie Hospice, Harestone, c/o W.A. Truelove, 187 Croydon Road, Caterham, Surrey.

TURNBULL - Tommy, DFC. Beloved husband of Mary, much loved father and grandfather. On 2nd May 1997 peacefully after a brief illness. Funeral Service at St Thomas Aquinas Church, Bletchley, Bucks at 12.30pm on Wednesday 14th May. No flowers please. Donations to Ward 15, Milton Keynes Hospital tel: 01908 660033.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ELVIN - A memorial to commemorate the life of Margaret Elvin will take place on Friday 16th May in the Leslie Stephen Room, Trinity Hall, Cambridge at 5pm. All friends welcome. No flowers.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

LEBUS - Angela Mary, so greatly missed and lovingly remembered.

SERVICES

[illegible]

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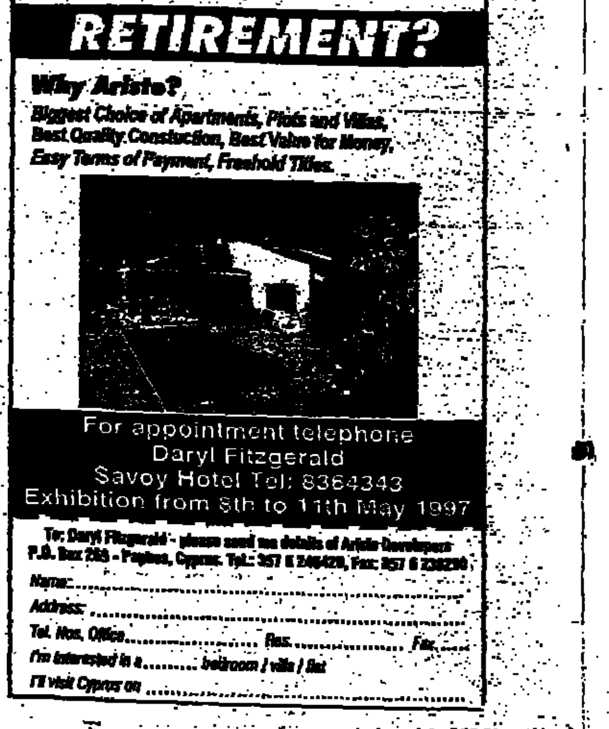

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OBITUARIES

GENERAL SIR JOHN GIBBON

General Sir John Gibbon, GCB, OBE, Master-General of Ordnance, 1974-77, died on May 7 aged 79. He was born on September 21, 1917.

John Gibbon was the epitome of the Whitehall Warrior, but in no derogatory sense. After seeing almost continuous active service throughout the Second World War, he rose from lieutenant-colonel to full general in the War Office and Ministry of Defence with only two short breaks away from the corridors of military power in 26 years. He was a master Whitehall tactician and could just as easily have risen to Permanent Under-Secretary in the Civil Service as to Master-General of Ordnance in the Army. He was also a true Gunner with a great pride in his regiment.

John Houghton Gibbon was the son of Brigadier J. H. Gibbon, the famous rowing coach, and became an enthusiastic oarsman himself. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, before following in his father's footsteps to a commission in the Royal Artillery just before war was declared in 1939. He joined the 2nd Royal Horse Artillery and went with them to France in the BEF, and then to the Middle East where he gained his early battle experience in the débâcle in Greece in 1941 while he was the regimental adjutant.

In Auchinleck's *Crusader* offensive in November 1941, he was Staff Captain RA at the headquarters of 30 Corps, working very closely with Mike Carver (later Field Marshal Lord Carver) in General Willoughby Norrie's tactical headquarters during the intense fighting around Sidi Rezegh and Tobruk, and during Rommel's harum-scarum "dash for the frontier wire", Gibbon made an early name for himself as an imperturbably efficient operational staff officer.

After surviving the disastrous battles of Gazala and the retreat to El Alamein, he was promoted to GSO2 in HQ 30 Corps in time for the battles of Alam Halfa and El Alamein, and took part in the advance to Tripoli before returning to the Gunners as brigade major of the 6th Army Group Royal Artillery during the battle for Tunis. He continued in this post after the leap to Sicily, the crossing of the Straits of Messina to mainland Italy and the advance to the River Sangro.

Early in 1944 he became GSO1 Royal Artillery at Montgomery's 21st Army Group headquarters, and served throughout the whole of the Normandy and North West Europe campaign. Immediately after the war, he returned for a short time to regimental duty before going to Palestine as the Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General of the 6th Airborne Division in 1946. He came back to England to join the Sandhurst instructional staff when the academy re-opened in 1947.

Apart from Gibbon's time with the 2nd Royal Horse Artillery in 1941, most of his extensive battle experience had been on the staff rather than with troops. He demonstrated, however, that he was equally good with them during his very successful command of L (Nery) Battery in BAOR during the 1950s. Nevertheless, he was a man who enjoyed abrasive situations. His contemporaries on the staff, where his quick, clear mind was a great asset, could return his anger with interest, but subordinates often found him difficult unless they, too, had a combative streak in them.

His War Office career started in 1951 with the key staff appointment of GSO2 Staff Duties, in which he was responsible for the day-to-day deployment of the Army world wide. He next attended the Joint Services Staff College before returning to the War Office in another key appointment as a lieutenant-colonel on the Q Operations Staff at the time of Suez. His last service with troops came in 1959 when he commanded the 6th Field Regiment for two years in the British Army of the Rhine and finally the 3rd Infantry Brigade in Cyprus.

His high level staff appointments started in 1962 when he was appointed Director of Defence Plans to Mountbatten, with whom he established a close rapport during the amalgamation of the three Service departments in the present Ministry of Defence building and the establishment of the Defence Staff. A year at the Imperial Defence College in 1965 saw him appointed Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Director of the Defence Operations Staff.

He was a tough, demanding and hard-working Secretary to the Chiefs of Staff during the turbulent years of Denis Healey's Defence Reviews and the withdrawal from East of Suez, with the Borneo and Aden campaigns in full swing at the time as well. He was no respecter of persons, and it surprised many people that he survived one particularly difficult encounter with the First Sea Lord. His ability saw him through to become the Army's Director of Staff Duties where his ruthlessness was an asset.

His final posts in his distinguished staff career were as Vice-Chief of Defence Staff in 1969, and then as Master-General of Ordnance on the Army Board in 1974. His aptitude for high level negotiation and his ability to understand and work with senior civil servants enabled him to handle the technological complexities of his department with sureness of touch, despite his lack of "weapons" and industrial background. He never mellowed while in the Service, driving the weapons staffs of the Ministry of Defence and the contractors in British industry with his merciless energy and cutting repartee until he retired in 1977.

Gibbon's greatest strength was his ability to get things done. After his retirement he became a pillar of strength in his regiment, advising and helping successive Directors of Artillery. He mellowed at last, and became a much respected and loved member of the Royal Regiment of Artillery's pantheon of elders.

In 1951 he married Brigid (Bid) Rosamund. She survives him with their son who followed his father and grandfather into the Gunners.

SIR MICHAEL SHERSBY

Sir Michael Shersby, Conservative MP for Uxbridge since 1972, died yesterday from an apparent heart attack aged 64. He was born on February 17, 1933.

SIR MICHAEL SHERSBY was a Tory knight of the suburbs. He was born in his Uxbridge constituency, educated near by and began his political career as chairman of Uxbridge Young Conservatives. Although his backbench activities were wide-ranging, he was careful never to neglect his base and he opposed vigorously a fifth runway for Heathrow Airport and protested frequently about the burden of illegal immigrants having to be carried by Hillingdon Council, which embraces Uxbridge. He was also a defender of the Green Belt.

His work as a constituency Member was one reason why he survived the general election massacre which destroyed the majorities of many of his seniors. He seemed safe enough at the beginning of the campaign, defending a majority of more than 12,000, with an owner-occupier rate approaching 70 per cent, thanks to a large extent to council house sales. But there were anxious moments at the count before he struggled back with a majority cut to 724.

His first contest at Uxbridge had also been close. In the winter of 1972, with the Heath Government unpopular, the bookmakers made Labour favourites to win the by-election caused by the death of journalist and broadcaster Charles Curran. But Shersby fought a tremendous campaign and edged home by 1,078. Although demographic changes helped to build up his majority, at one point to more than 15,000, he never forgot that he had first fought Uxbridge as a marginal and worked the constituency accordingly — for which his party had reason to be grateful in the early hours of May 2.

He was one of the most distinctive figures in successive Parliaments. He was tall, handsome with fair hair which gradually turned grey, dedicated to his chosen profession and unfailingly polite in an arena where courtesy is sometimes in short supply. He served diligently on many committees, where he was regarded as exceptionally fair-minded for a man so devoted to his party.

Julian Michael Shersby was born in Ickenham, Middlesex, the son of a Port of London executive officer. He was educated at John Lyon School, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

He started his working life as an employee of Central Office before becoming secretary to various trade and professional organisations. He was elected to Paddington Borough Council while still in his twenties and later became a member of Westminster City Council.

In the House, he promoted various Bills dealing with subjects ranging from gaming through parks regulations to Town and Country amenities. He was also a consistent defender of the rights of the Falkland Islanders.

In fact, he was a Falklands supporter before Margaret Thatcher. A visit to the islands in 1981 resulted in his warning that the withdrawal of *HMS Endurance* from the South Atlantic would give the wrong impression to Argentina — which it did. In 1983, after the successful recovery of the islands, he promoted the British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Act.

Another abiding interest was the sugar industry. He had been director-general of the Sugar Bureau before entering the House and as an MP he became its parliamentary adviser.

Since 1989 he had also been parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation of England and Wales — a job previously held by Sir Eldon Griffiths — and was a dedicated although always fair-minded defender of police interests. He acted as teller for the ayes in two votes calling for the reintroduction of capital punishment in 1994 and also regularly voted against any lowering of the homosexual age of consent.

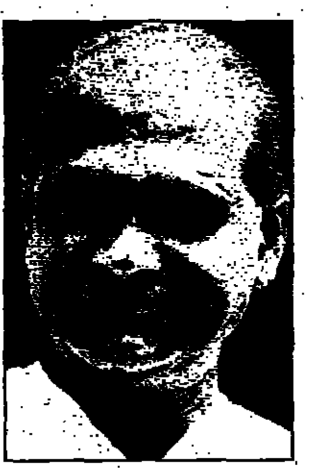
Shersby never held ministerial office. The nearest he got to the promotion ladder was in his early days in the House, serving as parliamentary private secretary to Michael Heseltine when he was Minister for Aerospace during the Heath Government. His failure to join the Thatcher camp in the leadership battle of 1975 continued to be regarded as a black mark throughout her successive governments.

He never struggled for office, however, but served unostentatiously on bodies such as the Chairmen's Panel and the Public Accounts Committee. He was chairman of the Police Parliamentary Group, of the all-party British Falklands Islands Group and an executive member of the UK Commonwealth Group. He was knighted in 1995.

Michael Shersby married in 1958 Barbara Barrow, who had her own career as a pharmacist. She survives him with their son and daughter.

WIJAYANANDA DAHANAYAKE

Wijayananda Dahanayake, former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, died on May 6 aged 94. He was born on on October 22, 1902.



THERE have been few more colourful or controversial Sri Lankan politicians than Wijayananda Dahanayake. He became Prime Minister in September 1959, when the Oxford-educated Prime Minister Solomon Dias Bandaranaike was assassinated by a Buddhist monk. By December 1959, the party Dahanayake represented, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, had sacked him and he, in turn, promptly sacked five Cabinet ministers. But amazingly he survived a vote of no confidence by a single vote in December 1959. He then caused universal surprise by dissolving Parliament the next day.

He created a new political party, and went to the polls and became the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to lose his own seat. When he moved out from the Prime Minister's official residence, he carried only a small suitcase and preferred to walk out of the premises and then take a taxi to the railway station, rather than use an official car.

It was this simplicity which endeared him to many. He quipped about his humble status, saying that since he slept on a mat on the floor, he would not fall off luxury beds.

Wijayananda Dahanayake was born at Richmond Hill, Galle, in the southern province. Educated at Richmond College, Galle, and St Thomas's College, Mount Lavinia, he qualified as a teacher. By 1935, he was elected to the Galle municipal council, and four years later became the Mayor of Galle. He was popular with the ordinary man and reduced taxes on bicycles and rickshaws to one rupee per year, which won him many votes.

In 1947, he stood against one of the richest men in Sri Lanka, H. W. Amarasuriya, for the parliamentary seat in Galle. He told his supporters that he was banging against a money tree, and that it was left to them to pick up the money which would fall from it, as he would not be spending any money on the elections.

He won with a handsome majority, and soon afterwards joined the Trotskyist *LSSP*. But in 1952, he accorded a reception in Galle to the new Prime Minister, Dudley Senanayake, and was promptly sacked by the Trotskyites for breaking the party line. He then formed the Bhasa Peramuna (Language Front), which was one of the constituent parties of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (People's United Front), which won the general election in 1956.

He was made Minister of Education by the new Prime Minister, Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, and earned the nickname "Bun Uncle" for giving a free bun and a glass of milk to all school children as a mid-day meal. He will also be remembered for elevating two Buddhist educational institutions to the rank of university.

He holds the record for the longest speech ever made in a Sri Lankan legislature, having spoken for 13½ hours during the Budget debate. He had many disagreements with Bandaranaike, and once said in Parliament: "I do not love thee, Banda dear, the reason why is very clear; I do not love thee, Banda dear, because you change from year to year."

It was during his time in office as Education Minister that English was replaced as the medium of instruction by Sinhala and Tamil, which led to lack of communication between the two main communities in Sri Lanka. It is one of the causes which led to the current war in the north and east of Sri Lanka which has claimed more than 50,000 lives during the past 13 years.

He was always seen as the representative of the ordinary people, and used every opportunity to live up to that reputation. During Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's term as Prime Minister in the mid-1970s when there was a shortage of textiles, Dahanayake created a sensation by seeking his own unique method of protest; he walked into Parliament wearing only a loin cloth. He retired from politics in 1989.

SIR ALAN RICHMOND

Sir Alan Richmond, mechanical engineer and teacher, died on April 11 aged 77. He was born on October 12, 1919.

A COMMITTED teacher of engineering, Alan Richmond was to enjoy a number of influential posts at higher education establishments throughout Britain. He was attentive as much to the welfare of his students as to the development of the institutions which he headed.

As director of Lanchester College of Technology (now Coventry University) he oversaw the building and development of the college and was particularly proud of the fine library he built up there. He recognised the importance to students of good library facilities and later, as Principal of Strode College in Somerset, again developed an extensive library.

He was knighted in 1969 for his services to education, which also included voluntary service on various boards and committees of the Council of National Academic Awards and membership of the Fire Service committee which led to the Holroyd report. He was a member of the steering committee of the Open University, an appointment he particularly enjoyed. He was also the author of two books of problems in thermodynamics for engineering students.

Alan James Richmond was born in Katowice, Poland, and after an education in Berlin and in Switzerland, joined the engineering industry in Britain as an apprentice. He obtained all his degrees and engineering qualifications as a part-time student while carrying out a full-time job. He was always to retain a great sympathy for those following a similar path.

He studied engineering during the evenings and weekends as an external student of London University and was eventually awarded his degree in 1945 — despite the fact that during one examination a bomb blew the glass out of the hall windows and scattered it over his drawings.

He became a chartered mechanical engineer in 1947 and was awarded a PhD in Strength of Materials in 1954 by London University. By this time he was a lecturer in mechanical engineering at Battersea Polytechnic (now Surrey University). Again, with few research funds available in the postwar climate, this work was carried out on a part-time basis.

In 1953 he became head of the engineering department at the Welsh College of Advanced Technology, Cardiff, from where he moved on, in 1958, to become Principal of Coventry Technical College. A year later he moved again to take up the post of director of the Lanchester College of Technology.

In 1962, at the age of 52, he became Principal of Strode College in Street, Somerset — a challenge which he met with enthusiasm.

On his retirement from full-time teaching, he began a third career as a commercial arbitrator, passing the examinations of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 1983. He also worked as a consultant for engineering problems in fields such as heating.

He leaves a widow, Sally, whom he married in 1951, and a stepdaughter and a stepson.

ON THIS DAY

May 9, 1928

Carol of Rumania, (1893-1953) was the controversial King of Rumania from 1930 to 1940 when he was forced to abdicate. He died in exile. His earlier life had been stormy and marked by domestic scandal involving among others, his long-time mistress, Madame Lupescu, whom he eventually married.

PRINCE CAROL.

ORDER TO LEAVE ENGLAND.

Prince Carol of Rumania has been requested by the Home Secretary to leave England.

In a dispatch which has been delayed by the Rumanian Censor, our Balkans Correspondent describes the great meeting of the Tsaranist (Peasant) Party at Alba Julia last Sunday. In later messages sent from Bucharest, he explains the significance of the strong resolutions passed at Alba Julia, which, he says are a warning to the Regents that, if they continue to maintain the present Cabinet in office, the agitation of the Opposition may end in a resort to violence, and perhaps an attempt to overthrow the Monarchy. Our Correspondent makes it clear that at no time during the proceedings at Alba Julia was any reference made to Prince Carol or any desire expressed for his return.

LIEUT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Hull Central, Lab.) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to the manifesto drawn up by Prince Carol of Rumania, now in this country, and printed in London, calling upon the people of Rumania to oust King Michael and recall Prince Carol to the throne; and whether he did not consider that action a breach of the comity of nations which would justify him in requesting Prince Carol to leave this country forthwith.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS, Home Secretary (Twickenham).—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. After consultation with my right hon friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have caused Prince Carol to be informed that his presence in this country is no longer welcome and that he should terminate his visit without delay.

Mr. E. BROWN (Leith, L.) asked whether Prince Carol was granted a permit to reside in this country, and, if so, when it expired.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.—Prince Carol was allowed to land on April 28 last, for a temporary visit of two months.

LIEUT.-COM. KENWORTHY asked whether, when permission was given by the Home Secretary to Prince Carol to land, any assurance was invited from him that he would not engage in intrigues or political activities in this country.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.—No, Sir.

LIEUT.-COM. KENWORTHY.—Why not?

Mr. THURTLE, (Shoreditch, Lab.) asked whether there was any foundation in fact for the statement made in the *Morning Post* and other newspapers that day to the effect that this so-called Rumanian plot was really only a "stunt" organized by certain newspapers.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.—I can only say that I have received an intimation from Prince Carol, who was served with my request to leave early this morning, that he is writing to me on the whole subject.

Miss WILKINSON (Middlesbrough E., Lab.) asked whether the Home Secretary treated Royalty differently in this matter of propaganda from ordinary citizens.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.—It is quite obvious from the action I have taken that I make no distinction.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHORT Russel Joseph, congratulations on your 21st, lots of love, Mum XX.

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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY MAY 9 1997

NEWS

Blair demands all-out action

■ Tony Blair cast aside tradition and formality and demanded discipline and hard work as the first Labour Cabinet meeting for 18 years approved an all-action programme of 22 Bills to become law in a marathon parliamentary session.

The measures, including education bills to drive up standards, an attack on crime and a shake-up of the health service, as well as the plan to establish a Scottish parliament, were given the go ahead at a two-hour gathering .... Page 1

Women dancers get the blues

■ Women ballroom dancers from Oxford University will be eligible for a full blue when they quickstep on to the floor in the annual Varsity match against Cambridge tomorrow. The women's blues committee at Oxford has decided to upgrade the sport from half-blue to full-blue status .... Page 1

BCCI man jailed

Abbas Gokal, 61, was jailed for 14 years for his role in sinking the Bank of Credit and Commerce in what is believed to be the world's biggest fraud .... Page 1

Burglar wins

A burglar has successfully sued a farmer who broke his jaw with a kick after he caught him stealing roof slates. Stanley Wiles, 63, must pay damages to Malcolm Phillips, 37 .... Page 3

Police guard school

Police were drafted onto the streets of west London after parents threatened revenge against five schoolboys accused of raping a nine-year-old girl .... Page 5

Dogs quietened

Four dogs whose barking drove neighbours wild are living a quiet life after therapy sessions with an animal "psychiatrist". Magistrates threatened to remove the animals after Mark Bambrough protested .... Page 6

Secret triplets

The parents of surrogate triplets said that they had had to keep their "blessings from God" a secret in the tense months leading up to their birth .... Page 7

Rich students only

The medical profession is in danger of again becoming a preserve of the rich, according to the students' committee of the British Medical Association .... Page 8

HRT research

One million women are being asked to take part in a study of hormone replacement therapy. The project plans to answer questions about links with breast cancer and heart disease .... Page 9

Bacon film in doubt

A film being made about the artist Francis Bacon, starring Derek Jacobi, may be halted by administrators of his estate .... Page 13

Yeltsin warns Nato

President Yeltsin issued a warning that Nato's plans to expand eastwards had provoked the most serious dispute between Russia and the United States since the 1962 Cuban crisis .... Page 14

New Zaire crisis

Several divisions of Angolan government troops, supported by helicopters and tanks, were massing along the Zaire border close to Matadi, the port which is Kinshasa's lifeline .... Page 15

Oil prospectors

International oil companies are renting an office in the impoverished Afghanistan city of Kandahar, headquarters of the Taleban Islamic militia, seeking a stake in prospects to the north ..... Page 16

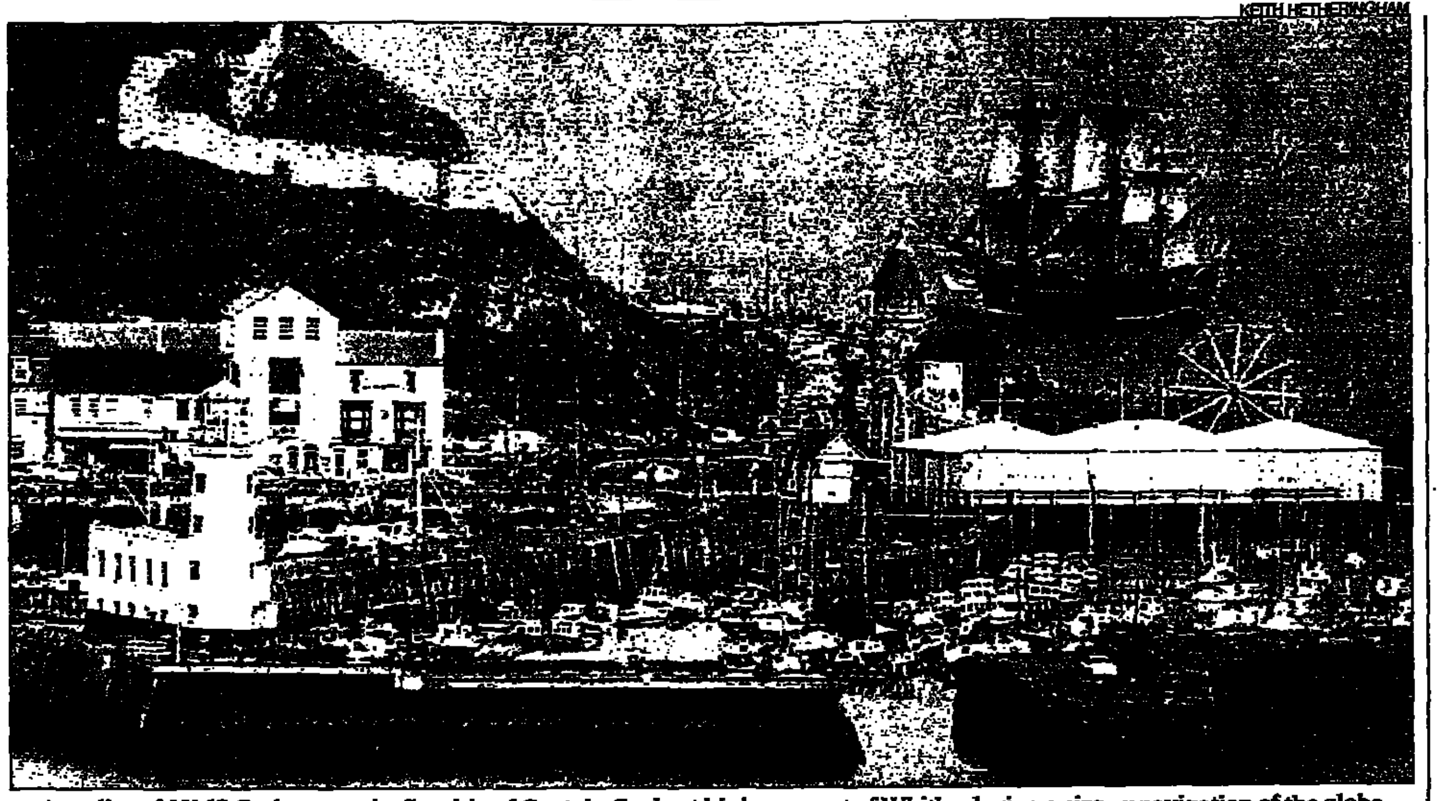
Caribbean crime

The Caribbean islands are battling a crime wave, and an increase in the deportation of criminals from the United States is largely to blame .... Page 17

Blue Peter bans child sweeps

■ *Blue Peter*, was accused of "political correctness gone mad" after refusing to film children dressed as chimney sweeps because they had blackened faces. BBC producers had planned a feature on a Dickensian festival, organised by the Rochester and Medway Council, but decided that the spectacle of children covered with soot might cause racial offence .... Page 1

KEITH HETHERINGHAM



A replica of *HMS Endeavour*, the flagship of Captain Cook, at his home port of Whitby during a circumnavigation of the globe

BUSINESS

Private finance: The Government moved to streamline the workings of the Private Finance Initiative, removing a key obstacle to having billions of pounds of privately-funded public sector projects approved speedily .... Page 25

Warning: Shares in BTR fell by 36½p to 231p after the engineering conglomerate produced its second profit warning in a year .... Page 25

Noel Edmonds: Toad, the car security company, has joined forces with the TV presenter in a deal that offers him a shareholding potentially worth £2.4 million .... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 42.9 to 4580.4. Sterling fell from 100.3 to 98.8 after falls from $1.6358 to $1.6205 and from DM2.8126 to DM2.7678 .... Page 28

SPORT

Football: Stuart Pearce, the England and Notingham Forest defender, is to relinquish his role as caretaker manager and will be replaced by Dave Bassett, the general manager .... Page 48

Cricket: The new chairman of selectors, David Graveney, has not seen a ball bowled this week despite clocking up hundreds of motorway miles .... Page 44

Motor racing: After the first, unofficial practice for the Monaco Grand Prix an Englishman, Johnny Herbert, was fastest of the 22 entrants in his Sauber .... Page 40

Fishing: The British record committee has refused to accept a 99lb catfish as a record for the species unless proof can be provided that it was legally stocked .... Page 48

ARTS

Bloody revenge: The RSC in Stratford unveils a new production of *The Spanish Tragedy* that does not quite rise to the bloodthirsty mood of Kyd's 16th-century revenge drama .... Page 33

Pop albums: The Big Bang spirit of Nirvana lives on in the new Foo Fighters' album, while Robert Cray offers more of his well-organised blues .... Page 34

Remix mania: Madonna, Michael Jackson, Suzanne Vega and Tori Amos are all doing it — dancing to the computer's tune .... Page 35

New releases: Anthony Hopkins is the artist at the centre of *Surviving Picasso*, now released on video: *Maria Callas is in fine voice on a* CD inspired by the West End play, *Master Class* .... Page 36

FEATURES

New dawn: "We are most grateful for what the last government did, but it's the beginning of the story, not the end." Frank Field, the minister charged with welfare reform, *meets* Valerie Grove .... Page 18

Centre stage: After years in the doldrums, Russia's once-legendary Bolshoi Theatre is determined to return to the centre of the world scene .... Page 19

Write stuff: Joseph Connolly spills the beans on what happened at the most stylish literary bash of all, the Authors of the Year party . Page 19

EDUCATION

In the post: Every school in England will soon receive a letter from the new Secretary of State: a sneak preview .... Page 39

Untenable: *Is it fair that go-ahead* academics who have won advancement, are the ones whose jobs are now at risk? A lecturer wonders why he may lose life tenure Page 39

THE PAPERS

Gary Kasparov observed after his defeat by a computer that the machine seemed able to think for itself. But intelligence does not only consist of calculation: it also embraces memory, sensibility, intuition, *and the ability to ask the right* questions as well as find the right answers. The world's woes do not stem from machines, but from the people who make them.

— *Il Messaggero*, Rome

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ MAGAZINE
Sean Bean, British movie heart-throb, on his role as Count Vronsky in *Anna Karenina*

■ CAR 97
Britain's new mecca for Harley Davidson enthusiasts

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Neil Pearson *and Joanna* Roth as lovers 250 miles apart. *See You Friday* (ITV, 8.30pm). **Review:** *Matthew Bond* on a severed leg and other stomach-churners ...... Page 47

OPINION

The freedom files

The Prime Minister *has made trust* his theme; a Freedom of Information Act would help to convince voters that the Government will keep cupboards clean .... Page 21

Footsteps to emu

By the autumn, *it will be time to say* whether Britain will join the first wave. Staying out then will not preclude later membership. The best defence is forcefully expressed views from the business community and the public .... Page 21

The game's afoot

Moscow is playing a desperate game to sabotage attempts to re-establish old patterns of trade. The New Game is being played with little regard for old rules ... Page 21

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS

Jonathan Swift thought that "the bulk of mankind is as well qualified for flying as for thinking". Samuel Butler agreed. "The public buys its opinions as it buys its meat, or takes in its milk: on the principle that it is cheaper to do this than to keep a cow." I share this suspicion of democracy .... Page 20

DANIEL JOHNSON

Willetts, Letwin and Duncan Smith all see Europe as the great issue of the day. Despite defeat, despite the *Zeitgeist*, the musketeers are still the cutting edge .... Page 20

PHILIP HOWARD

1. Lo, the Queen of Sheba hath come amongst us Mediaites again: and got her name once more into the tabloids of stone .... Page 20

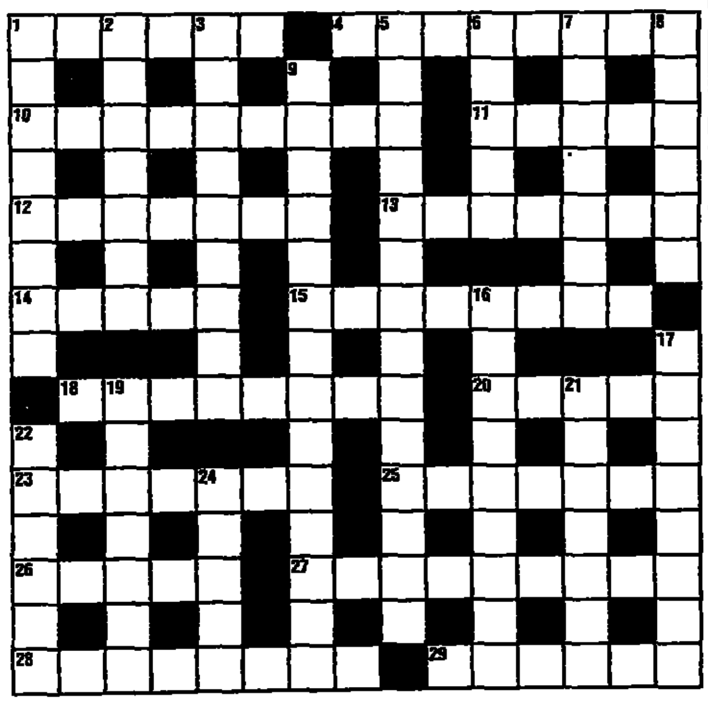
OBITUARIES

General Sir John Gibbon, Master-General of Ordnance; **Sir Michael Shersby**, Conservative MP for Uxbridge; **Wijayananda Dahanayake**, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka; **Sir Alan Richmond**, mechanical engineer .... Page 23

LETTERS

Tory leader; independent Bank of England; law's failings; John Major and Rab Butler; Roy Strong's diaries; exploding rats; nesting habits .... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,475



ACROSS
1 Wet swan seen on reservoir (6).
4 Tissue that can make nose uncomfortable (8).
10 Recognise movement in mass (9).
11 In more ways than one, they may make a fine spray (5).
12 Quiet part of Spain is ideal (7).
13 Cardinal, say, about to contribute to the collection (7).
14 Make exultant, finalising previous answer (5).
15 Fast road into airport — on the way in boisterous fashion (8).
18 Start to grow a popular fruit (8).
20 Half-heartedly try to influence peer (5).
23 A new attempt by artists to show various animals (7).
25 Gangster to be fearful of? So am I (7).
26 Sudden raid to bring back prisoners netting nothing (5).
27 Cried by turns, feeling loss of parting perhaps (9).
28 Feasts damn easy to organise (4-4).
29 Admiration produced by puzzle (6).

DOWN
1 Sort out import price he'd fiddled (8).
2 Island bird grabbing some worm in, or caterpillar (7).
3 Lights so ideal for tree? (9).
5 Girl's date is a flop (14).
6 One Pole or another East European type (5).
7 Get ready to work where animal's housed (7).
8 Tender as Ophelia was to Laertes (6).
9 Reason for entering huge wave that's off Irish coast (6,8).
16 Declaration of intent has obvious omission, lacking sense of purpose (9).
17 Newsman in army personnel carrier (8).
19 Berth set up in accommodation for members (7).
21 It helps one keep up one's reading (7).
22 Professional man beginning to panic over crime (6).
24 Quick attack captures pawn (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 20,474

P	I	Q	U	E		F	L	O	O	R	S	H	O	W
U		U		X		A		S		O		I		H
F	O	O	T	P	R	I	N	T		C	A	L	V	E
F		T		R		R		R		K		L		E
A	W	A	K	E		W	H	I	M	S	I	C	A	L
D				S		A		C				L		
D	E	B	U	S	S	Y		H	O	U	D	I	N	I
E		I		L						R		M		N
R	E	L	A	Y	E	D		V	I	S	I	B	L	E
		I				E		I		A				B
V	I	N	G	T	E	T	U	N		M	A	J	O	R
I		G		W		R		E		I		O		I
S	A	U	N	A		O	R	G	A	N	Z	I	N	E
T		A		N		I		A		O		N		T
A	L	L	I	G	A	T	O	R		R	I	T	Z	Y

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Gwynedd 1.22in; highest sunshine, Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 12.9hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** *Wales and central and* eastern England should start bright or sunny. Other parts of England are expected to be more cloudy, perhaps with some showers. Cloud will increase everywhere and from late morning onwards showers are expected to be become fairly frequent in most places. The showers may be heavy at times, with thunder here and there. Skies will clear during the late evening.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will start with sunny intervals and scattered showers, but the showers will become more frequent and heavier during the day. There will be thunder in places and some sleet and snow on hills. The best chance of sunshine will be in southern Scotland.

Temperature will generally be near the May average.

☐ **London, E Anglia, Midlands, E England, Central N England, NE England:** bright or sunny start. Showers developing. Thunder possible. Wind west moderate. Cool in the showers. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** bright early but showers becoming more frequent as the day progresses. Thunder possible. Wind west moderate or fresh. Cool in the showers. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** bright at first. Showers becoming more frequent and widespread during the day. Thunder expected with sleet and snow on the hills. Wind easterly moderate. Cool. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** a mixture of sunny periods and scattered showers with an occasional longer spell of rain.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

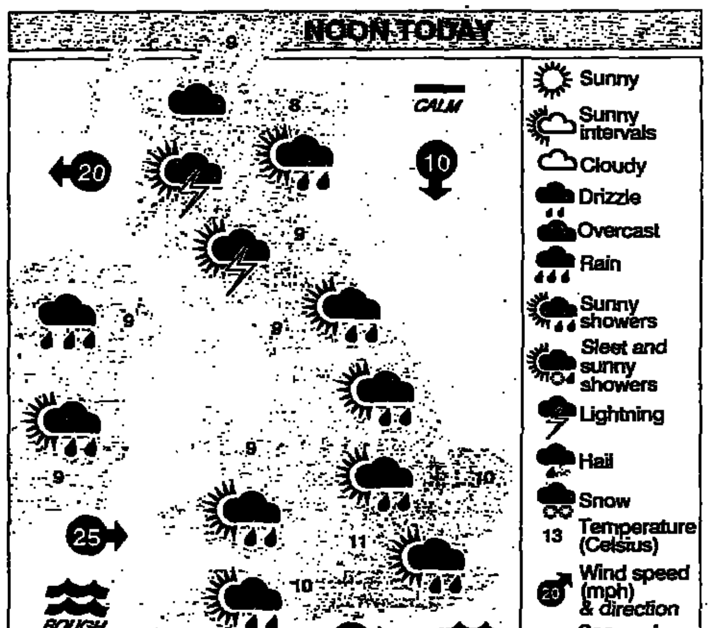
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.9	0.08	8	46	sh	Lerwick	8.7	0.04	8	46	h
Anglesey	0.1	0.51	10	50	r	Leuchars	6.7	0.25	9	48	s
Aspatria	7.6	0.02	10	50	sh	Littlehmptn	7.9	0.32	13	55	r
Aviemore	4.8	0.32	9	48	sh	London	3.3	0.29	12	54	sh
Belfast	5.7	0.25	12	54	sh	Lowestoft	5.1	0.25	11	52	f
Birmingham	3.2	0.25	11	52	sh	Manchester	3.1	0.33	9	48	sh
Bognor R	7.0	0.17	13	55	b	Margate	5.8	0.01	13	55	sh
Bournem'th	3.3	0.02	12	54	sh	Minehead	4.9	0.17	14	57	sh
Bristol	2.7	0.03	12	54	sh	Morecambe	4.8	0.39	10	50	h
Buxton	1.1	0.77	8	46	sh	Newcastle	5.0	0.39	10	50	h
Cardiff	6.3	0.13	13	55	sh	Norwich	5.9	0.22	10	50	sh
Clacton	7.4	0.09	11	52	sh	Oxford	5.0	0.15	13	55	sh
Cleethorpes	3.4	0.46	12	54	f	Penzance	X	0.11	14	57	h
Colwyn Bay	0.3	0.70	9	48	c	Poole	3.3	0.08	13	55	c
Cromer	7.0	0.14	10	50	s	Ross-o-wye	2.8	0.02	13	55	sh
Dunbar	4.8	0.16	8	46	r	Ryde	6.5	0.08	12	54	sh
Eastbourne	8.9	0.33	12	54	b	Salcombe	4.6	0.48	13	55	sh
Edinburgh	2.3	0.10	9	48	sh	Sandown	5.7	0.01	13	55	b
Eskdalemuir	1.7	0.10	8	46	f	Saunton Snd	4.6	0.13	13	55	b
Exmouth	3.8	0.14	12	54	sh	Scarboro'	5.6	0.54	10	50	sh
Falmouth	4.8	0.43	13	55	sh	Shanklin	4.9	0.14	11	52	r
Fishguard	1.8	0.54	9	48	r	Skegness	8.4	0.14	11	52	sh
Folkestone	5.6	0.05	12	54	b	Southend	5.2	0.06	12	54	sh
Glasgow	6.1	0.01	10	50	sh	Southport	3.9	0.17	9	48	sh
Guernsey	3.2	0.26	14	57	sh	Southsea	6.8	0.04	12	54	c
Hastings	9.0	0.14	13	55	b	Stornoway	12.9	0.02	9	48	s
Hayling I	7.0	0.11	13	55	sh	Swanage	4.4	0.13	12	54	sh
Herne Bay	3.6	0.02	13	55	du	Teignmouth	2.3	0.08	12	54	sh
Hove	8.3	0.17	12	54	b	Tenby	3.1	0.18	11	52	sh
Hunstanton	X	0.25	11	52	sh	Tiree	11.8	0.02	10	50	s
Isle of Man	2.3	0.04	10	50	b	Torquay	3.7	0.21	13	55	sh
Jersey	2.2	0.28	12	54	sh	Ventnor	5.8	0.16	11	52	b
Kinloss	10.6	0.05	10	50	s	West-s-mare	3.5	0.43	14	57	sh
Leeds	5.2	0.17	8	46	f	Weymouth	3.6	0.13	12	54	sh

ABROAD

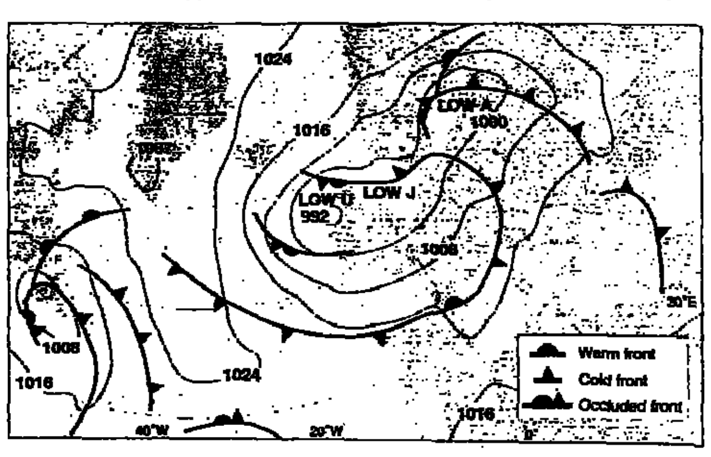
Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	21	70	f	Majorca	15	59	f	Rome	18	64	f
Akrotiri	23	73	s	C'phagn	10	50	f	Malaga	22	72	f	S Frisco	18	64	s
Alex'dria	24	75	s	Dublin	9	48	f	Malta	26	79	s	S Paulo	23	73	c
Algiers	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Melb'rne	13	55	c	Salzburg	8	46	r
Amst'dm	7	45	f	Faro	18	64	f	Mexico C	23	73	s	Santiago	20	68	c
Athens	23	73	s	Florence	18	64	f	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	20	68	r
B Aires	X			Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	20	68	c	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	29	84	s	Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	8	46	s	St'kholm	10	50	f
Bangkok	37	99	s	Geneva	13	55	f	Moscow	15	59	f	Strasb'rg	11	52	f
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Munich	8	46	c	Sydney	25	77	s
Barcelona	14	57	f	Helsinki	12	54	s	N Delhi	34	93	s	Tangier	18	64	c
Beirut	22	72	s	Hong K	24	75	r	N York	12	54	s	Tel Aviv	25	77	s
Belgrade	25	77	s	Innsbrck	5	41	r	Nairobi	24	75	c	Tenerife	23	73	f
Berlin	10	50	f	Istanbul	21	70	s	Naples	22	72	s	Tokyo	23	73	c
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	30	86	f	Nice	16	61	f	Toronto	10	50	c
Biarritz	10	50	c	Jo'burg	16	61	f	Oslo	7	45	r	Tunis	23	73	f
Borde'x	11	52	f	L Angels	23	73	s	Paris	4	39	r	Valencia	19	66	f
Brussels	9	48	f	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	18	64	s	Vanc'ver	12	54	s
Budapst	18	64	f	Le Touqt	10	50	f	Perth	17	63	s	Venice	16	61	f
Cairo	29	84	s	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	6	43	c	Vienna	14	57	f
Cape Tn	18	64	f	Locarno	12	54	-	Reykjavik	1	34	sn	Warsaw	11	52	c
Ch'church	11	52	s	Luxembg	6	43	c	Rhodes	21	70	s	Wash'ton	19	66	f
Chicago	15	59	f	Luxor	33	91	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	x
Cologne	7	45	f	Madrid	14	57	c	Riyadh	31	88	s	Zurich	9	48	d

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low U will remain centred over Britain and slowly fill; low J will fill as it approaches Denmark; low A will swing northwest and slowly fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	04.12	7.4	16.35	7.3	Leith	04.57	5.6	17.22	5.5
Aberdeen	03.36	4.2	16.00	4.2	Liverpool	01.24	9.5	13.46	9.4
Avonmouth	09.42	13.4	21.57	13.3	Lowestoft	11.58	2.5	-	-
Belfast	01.16	3.5	13.42	3.4	Margate	02.15	4.8	14.40	4.7
Cardiff	09.28	12.4	21.43	12.3	Milford Haven	08.42	7.0	21.00	6.9
Devonport	08.21	5.4	20.37	5.4	Newquay	07.33	7.0	19.52	6.9
Dover	01.11	6.7	13.35	6.6	Oban	08.09	3.8	20.13	3.8
Dublin (N Wall)	01.46	4.2	14.08	4.2	Penzance	07.02	5.5	19.21	5.5
Falmouth	07.52	5.2	20.08	5.2	Portland	09.24	2.0	21.33	2.0
Greenock	02.39	3.4	15.10	3.3	Portsmouth	01.26	4.7	13.50	4.6
Harwich	02.02	4.1	14.24	4.0	Shoreham	01.17	6.3	13.44	6.2
Holyhead	00.29	5.7	12.52	5.6	Southampton	00.57	4.6	13.18	4.5
Hull (Albert D)	08.41	8.7	21.03	8.7	Swansea	08.44	9.5	21.00	9.4
Ilfracombe	08.27	9.3	20.43	9.2	Tees	05.59	5.4	18.21	5.4
King's Lynn	08.48	6.7	21.09	6.6	Walton-on-N	01.54	4.3	14.18	4.1

All times BST. Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.18 am
Sun sets: 8.37 pm
Moon sets 11.16 pm
Moon rises 7.32 am

First quarter May 14

London 8.37 pm to 5.17 am
Bristol 8.46 pm to 5.27 am
Edinburgh 9.08 pm to 5.10 am
Manchester 8.53 pm to 5.17 am
Penzance 8.53 pm to 5.43 am

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هكذا صنع الأصل

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky's second thoughts on Bank independence
PAGE 29

EDUCATION
Breath of hope for asthmatic schoolchildren
PAGE 39

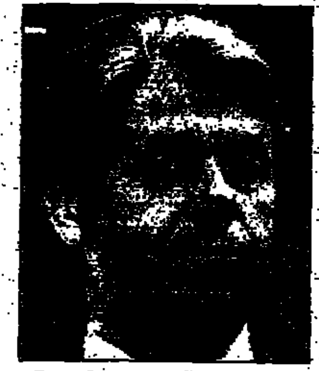
SPORT
Smell of money in the air on streets of Monaco
PAGES 40-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MAY 9 1997

BTR's shares slump after second profit warning



Strachan: sterling worry

By Oliver August

SHARES in BTR slumped by 14 per cent yesterday after the company gave its second profit warning within a year. The price slide wiped £1.6 billion off the value of Britain's biggest conglomerate. The shares fell from 267½p to 231p, but one major holder chose to bail out at *just 215½p*.

Ian Strachan, chief executive, blames BTR's disappointing performance on the strong pound and weaker than expected markets in Germany and Australia. His warning prompted heavy selling of the shares.

SBC Warburg, the house broker, bought 80 million shares, 2 per cent of the total, from an unknown *investor* at 215p and later sold them on for 219p, making a profit of £2.8 *million*.

BTR said that sales in the first half of 1997 will be hit by £300 million assuming currencies stay at current levels. Operating profits are expected to suffer a £35 million decrease.

The message from the company is that it is suffering from depressed markets in Germany and Australia, which *account for 30 per cent of sales*, and that the problems have been exacerbated by the strength of *sterling*.

BTR is in the middle of a global restructuring. So far, 80 per cent of the intended disposals have been executed and the City had been convinced that the group had overcome its problems.

Last May, BTR said that it expected lower *first-half* operating profits because of poor performance by an Asian division, *but two months ago it* reported better than expected results for 1996 and said that it was making good progress on cost-cutting and restructuring.

Analysts yesterday cut 1997 profit estimates by about 10 per cent, to around £1.2 billion, but some said that the market reaction was too severe. Ian Rennardson, of Crédit Lyonnais, said: "As far as the *longer term is concerned*, BTR is doing all the right things."

Driving its restructuring *forward*, *the group yesterday* bought Parvex from GEC-Alsthom and sold Mirrless Blackstone to the Anglo-French joint venture. Parvex is said to enhance BTR's Brook Hansen, the industrial motors and gear drives unit, and the Mirrlees sale completes BTR's exit from diesel engine manufacturing. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Paul Buysse, *the BTR* executive director responsible for power drives, said: "The pow*er drives market* is *being* driven by demand for higher productivity and automation. *This market is* developing rapidly and we are seeing the convergence of power with intelligent control."

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4580.4	(+42.9)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	2188.16	(+14.26)
Nikkei	20061.81	(+12.91)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7169.10	(+73.45)*
S&P Composite	822.94	(+7.32)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5⅝%*	(5⅝%)
Long Bond	96 1/16*	(95 [illegible])
Yield	6.94%*	(6.97%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6⅞%	(6⅞%)
Liffe long gilt *future (Jun)*	113⅞	(113 [illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6203*	(1.6155)
London:		
$	1.6207	(1.6365)
DM	2.7672	(2.8138)
FFr	9.3380	(9.4929)
SFr	2.3378	(2.3874)
Yen	200.65	(204.31)
£ Index	98.8	(100.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7075*	(1.7195)
FFr	5.7720*	(5.8000)
SFr	1.4448*	(1.4584)
Yen	123.82*	(125.08)
$ Index	104.8	(105.2)

Tokyo close Yen 123.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$18.55	($18.20)

GOLD

London close	$343.80	($340.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Tax credits

Senior figures in Britain's pensions industry believe that *Labour plans to abolish* advance corporation tax credit in a move aimed at bringing in an extra £5 billion of income for the Government. **Page 26**

Sweet deal

Lonrho's break-up programme marched on with the sale of its 94.25 per cent stake in Lonrho Sugar Corporation, based in *Swaziland, for 1.653 billion* rand (£227 million). The sale to Illovo Sugars of South Africa creates Africa's largest sugar group. **Page 31, Tempus 28**

Labour aims for billions in PFI projects

By Philip Bassett and Oliver August

THE new Labour Government yesterday moved to streamline the workings of *the Private Finance Initia*tive, removing a key obstacle to having billions of pounds of privately funded public sector projects approved speedily.

The Treasury will immediately end the universal testing of all PFI schemes, a move which was warmly welcomed by business. This was coupled *with the announcement of a* private sector led review of the whole PFI process, due to be completed within six weeks. This has the clear aim of improving the efficiency of public-private partnership on key projects.

Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, announced that Malcolm Bates, chairman *of Pearl Assurance and Pre*mier Farnell and a former deputy managing director at GEC, would conduct a "rapid" review of the current arrangements, taking as a starting plan the 12 proposals for PFI reform included in Labour's *business manifesto*.

Mr Bates, an original member of the first Private Finance Panel which was set up to oversee the PFI, is to report by June 13 and the Government is expected to implement any recommended changes speedily. The shake-up is likely to include setting specific timetables for projects and reviewing *current legislation along the* lines of the 12-point plan in the Labour manifesto for business.

The Government said it was ending universal testing for potential private finance projects, which it said had been a "recipe for frustration and delay".

Departments will now be able to avoid spending time *and money trying to develop* models for private finance which they know will be unworkable, although it was made clear that this did not imply any increase in departments' capital budgets.

Mr Robinson said: "We *know the thing hasn't deliv*ered. We know there are obstacles in the way. Most of them have been created by government. We need to work out what to do now."

Although £7 billion worth of projects have been approved under the PFI, work has been painfully slow. The biggest impact from Labour's changes *will be felt in the health sector*, where there are more than 80 new tenders awaiting approval. A Treasury spokesman said: "The main thing is health. The large district hospitals are first."

The biggest projects destined for a quick sign-off are the £90 million rebuilding of the 520-bed Princess Margaret *Hospital in Swindon and the* £170 million Norwich and Norfolk hospital providing 700 beds, the biggest PFI venture in the NHS.

The PFI scheme was supposed to aid the funding of new hospitals. But rather than speeding up the construction, the PFI scheme brought hospital development almost to a standstill because of the complexity of the tendering process and concerns about trusts ex*ceeding their legal powers* by entering into large contracts.

Charles Cox, chairman of the *CBI's public procurement* committee, said: "The abolition of universal testing is a *major policy leap* for PFI — picking up the CBI's recommendation for a more focused approach to project selection."

Taylor Woodrow, the builder, welcomed the changes. A spokesman said: "We have had problems particularly in the *health sector, not so much in* road building. *At the moment*, we are the preferred bidder on five hospitals. *All have taken a* long time because PFI projects in this area have had a very long learning curve.

"The main problem has been that the banks decided they cannot proceed because they don't believe that the *NHS trusts have the power to* sign contracts. The changes will open up a huge market in the health sector."

Pennington, page 27

Gokal's wife, Rukaiyna, and daughter, Sukaiyna, arrive at the Old Bailey yesterday

Toad asks TV star to make it famous

By Fraser Nelson

TOAD, the car security company, has joined forces with Noel Edmonds in a deal that offers the television personality a shareholding potentially worth £2.4 million if he makes the company a household name within two years.

Mr Edmonds has also agreed to sell Toad his own car security company for *£200,000 in an all-share deal*.

In addition, Mr Edmonds will promote Toad through his various activities, which range from his Crinkley Bottom theme park to producing London's Proms in the Park.

He will receive the maximum payout only if Toad shares pass 240p, and if Toad becomes a familiar name to 30 *per cent of Britons by 1999*.

Chris Evans, the biotech entrepreneur who floated Toad, said the move was designed to reverse the collapse in Toad's share price, down from 115p to 39p since flotation in 1995.

Mr Edmonds said his involvement went far beyond a celebrity endorsement. "I will be right in the firing line taking *the business forward*," *he said*.

Toad shares rose 1½p to 41p yesterday.

Tempus, page 28

Pound dives over ERM speculation

By Alasdair Murray

THE POUND nosedived on the foreign exchanges yesterday after speculation that the Government wants to rejoin the European exchange-rate *mechanism* at DM2.50.

The pound tumbled 4.5 pfennigs to close at DM2.7678, *while sterling's trade-weight*ed index fell to 98.8 from 100.3. The pound also finished 1.5 cents lower against the *dollar* at $1.6205. In contrast, the FT-SE 100 soared 42.9 points to a closing record of 4,580.4, tracking the recovery on Wall *Street after* its 140-point fall on Wednesday.

The fall in the pound came after a report overnight suggested that Labour would consider re-entering the ERM at DM2.50. But Treasury officials quickly moved to deny *the story* which was attributed to an unnamed source. Most analysts say it is unlikely Labour intends to re-enter the *ERM* at this stage because it goes against policy. But there is a suspicion that the Government may want to talk sterling lower.

The pound is expected to derive some short-term support from the expectation of *further* rate rises after the latest CBI distributive trades survey suggested that high *street spending* had accelerated again during April.

Sir Brian Moffat, chairman of British Steel, yesterday weighed in on the growing debate over the pound warning that its current level affects 8.5 million jobs in the manu*facturing sector*. He claimed that the attempt to control inflation through interest rates was having an exaggerated impact on manufacturing competitiveness where few inflationary pressures existed.

Pennington, page 27

BCCI fraud reaps Gokal record 14 years in jail

By Jon Ashworth

Gokal: 'unscrupulous'

THE Pakistani shipping tycoon who crippled *the Bank of* Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was yesterday sent to prison for 14 years, in the steepest sentence of its kind to be meted out by a British court.

Abbas Gokal, 61, former chairman of the Gulf Group, siphoned $1.2 billion (£750 million) from BCCI through a maze of offshore companies, threatening ruin for thousands of bank depositors, including the Western Isles council in Scotland. He passes into history as Britain's biggest fraudster, his case one of vast complexity.

Sentencing Gokal at the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Buxton said that his actions had threatened the integrity of the entire international banking system. Gokal had lied repeatedly during the trial, showed no remorse, and had cost the *English* taxpayer *many* millions of pounds. He was ordered to pay £2.9 million out of his personal assets within two years, or face an additional three years in prison.

However, no compensation order was awarded in favour of BCCI creditors, who received a first dividend of 24.5p in the pound last December, and can anticipate a second *distribution of at least 10p in* the pound. The liquidators of BCCI are pursuing civil litigation aimed at recovering up to $10 billion. They hope to learn this month whether they will be allowed to proceed with a claim against the Bank of England, which closed BCCI down in 1991.

Christopher Morris, the joint liquidator of BCCI, said: "We will continue civil proceedings against Gokal and his associates worldwide."

Gokal was convicted last month of fraud and false accounting, *at the conclusion* of a 122-day trial that cost £4.5 million. His sentence far outstrips the previous record of ten years imposed on Peter Clowes, whose Barlow Clowes financial empire collapsed in 1988, at great cost to thousands of *elderly investors*. *In* 1995, Graham Durnford Ford, a solicitor, was jailed for ten years for stealing £8 million from the estates of deceased clients.

The Serious Fraud Office, which has successfully prosecuted in five consecutive cases linked to BCCI, said the sentence sent an emphatic message to would-be fraudsters.

Gokal's wife, Rukaiyna, and *daughter, Sukaiyna, watched* from the gallery, as the judge told Gokal that he was "an intelligent, sophisticated and unscrupulous man, who put the interests of yourself and your family before all else."

He conspired with BCCI officials to create a fraud on a massive scale, using the proceeds to fund an "extravagant and expensive" lifestyle. Huge sums were channeled from BCCI to keep his bankrupt shipping group afloat.

Fraud-busters, page 26
Pennington, page 27

Stagecoach escapes with £900,000 fine

[illegible] teething problems

By Fraser Nelson

STAGECOACH, the transport group that cancelled 2,000 trains on its South West Trains rail franchise this winter after making too many drivers *redundant*, has paid a £900,000 fine.

The company, which receives a state subsidy of £1 million a week to run the service, has escaped the special £1 million *fine threatened by Opraf*, the rail franchising regulator, after restoring services in April. John O'Brien, franchising director, *said* he had a lively discussion with *John* Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was told that Opraf was powerless to impose further penalties on the operator. He said: "My job is to implement the law as it is laid down. *I have been asked to see* how enforcement powers can be changed to stop what they [Labour] see as operators getting away with it."

Gavin Strang, Minister for Transport, *said operators were on their last warning*. "The South West Trains episode supports our belief that the weapons currently available to the regulators are inadequate."

Stagecoach, run by Brian Souter, said it was delighted with the outcome, describing the two-month-long disruption as *"teething problems". Its shares rose* 19½p to 618½p. Brian Cox, managing director of South West Trains, said: "We are now fully braced to get back on track and stay on track. The situation was never as bad *as it was made out — the ship had a* stormy launch but it stayed robust."

Stagecoach was able to avoid the heavier penalties by restricting cancella*tions to off-peak services*. While Opraf levies £600 *for every peak-time train that* is cancelled, the penalty for off-peak cancellations can fall below £100.

To take extra action *under the Railway* Act, Opraf must wait until a train operator has underperformed for eight weeks. Then, it can threaten an unlimited fine that can be imposed only after a *further month*. It was in this final "grace period" that South West Trains restored its service, avoiding the extra penalty.

Pennington, page 27

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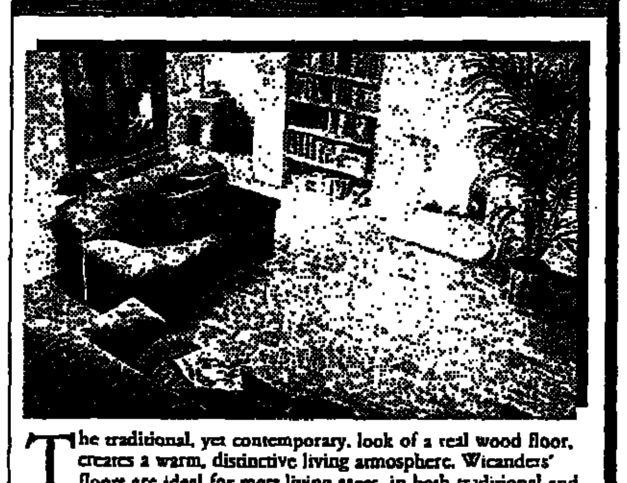

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Fraud-busters who grounded Gokal's flight

By Jon Ashworth

ABBAS GOKAL, jailed for 14 years for his role in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) debacle, has occupied a lot of people for a long, long time. At one point, 80 policemen, lawyers and accountants were working on what was to become one of the most complicated and lengthy investigations in criminal history.

The severity of his sentence is a fillip to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) team, led by Chris Dickson and Kevin McDonald, and that from the City of London Police fraud squad, headed by Detective Superintendent Jerry Ohlson. Detective Sergeant Doug Reeman and Detective Constable Steve Joels, were commended for their exemplary work on the case.

The police gathered enough information to cover a football pitch, including 2,800 bags and 2,614 files, and had to reinforce the structural foundations of their storage facility. The BCCI case took up more than half a million man hours, and required visits to 19 countries on a tour that included Grand Cayman, Monaco, Abu Dhabi and the Isle of Man.

Gokal, seized in Frankfurt in July 1994, consistently protested his innocence. Sentencing him yesterday, Mr Justice Buxton said he had "showed no remorse, fought the case to the end, and lied persistently and repeatedly in so doing". His actions had caused harm to many thousands of innocent people, and threatened the integrity of the international banking system. The police snared Gokal after finding him booked under a false name on a Pakistan Airlines flight from Karachi to New York. Sergeant Reeman was waiting with an arrest warrant when the plane landed at Frankfurt to refuel.

Passengers were asked to disembark, but Gokal did not appear. Reeman boarded the plane, and discovered him sitting in first class with his wife, surrounded by air hostesses. He was arrested, and extradited to the UK.

A tip-off led the police to a safe deposit box in Old Broad Street. Inside, they found documents acknowledging that the Gulf Group, Gokal's company, owed $1.2 billion to BCCI — evidence that was to hold the case together. Detective Superintendent Ohlson says: "Sometimes you get these wonderful champagne moments during an investigation. This was one of them."

Pensions leaders warn Brown over abolition of ACT

By Marianne Curphey and Robert Miller

SENIOR figures in Britain's pensions industry believe that Labour plans to abolish Advance Corporation Tax credit to bring in an extra £5 billion of income for the Government.

Leaders of Britain's largest pension schemes, which control assets of £370 billion, have united to give a warning to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, not to "strangle" occupational retirement funds.

Senior fund managers at the National Association of Pension Funds annual conference, which opened yesterday, said pension schemes and personal equity plans could be hit if Labour halved or abolished ACT. One leading industry figure told *The Times*: "We are concerned that it would be an easy target for a government looking for new ways of raising revenue. The message I am receiving is that abolition of the ACT is entirely possible. It could raise £5 billion for the Exchequer."

Fears that Mr Brown plans to curtail the tax concessions enjoyed by occupational pension funds has sparked a furious campaign led by the NAPF, whose members look after pensions on behalf of ten million public and private-sector employees.

Speaking at the conference in Harrogate yesterday, Ann Robinson, director-general of NAPF, said: "We have deep concerns about some of the Government's projected tax policies — in particular any reduction or abolition of the ACT credits."

ACT is the 20 per cent tax currently levied on all company dividends. Pension funds can claim this back on the grounds that the tax will eventually be collected on the money paid out as a monthly pension. Paul Myners, chairman of Gartmore, part of the NatWest Group, said: "ACT is a honeypot that the Chancellor will find it difficult not to dip his mitts into."

Outside the NAPF conference hall, senior fund managers reinforced Dr Robinson's views. Colin Day, senior adviser to Henderson Investors, which manages £15 billion, said: "If ACT is reduced, or even abolished altogether, it will be a case of short-term gain for long-term pain. The Chancellor would see an increase in tax revenues almost immediately but in the years to come you would find lower pension fund returns and therefore a lower tax yield."

Peter Robertson, assistant general manager of Standard Life, said: "Frank Field has been appointed to take a comprehensive look at pension provision and he is likely to look at changes in the context of other forms of tax relief, including mortgage interest tax relief. This is an issue which could involve substantial changes . . ."

Insurer dismisses call by environment lobby

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

PRUDENTIAL Corporation has dismissed calls from the environment lobby to take an active role in strategic decisions made by Royal Dutch/Shell and RTZ-CRA. It holds 3.8 per cent of Shell and 4.1 per cent of RTZ-CRA. Prudential confirmed yesterday that it would not support an independent resolution next week calling for clarification of Shell's environmental and corporate responsibility policies.

The resolution is being lodged at Shell's annual meeting next Wednesday by Pirc, the campaigning investment advisory service. But Sir Martin Jacomb, chairman of Prudential, said at yesterday's annual meeting: "We take environmental concerns seriously but it is unrealistic to suggest that the world will use less energy, and we will not be using our position to put pressure on Shell."

Steve Willcox, pictured, chief executive of Avon Rubber saw interim profits rise to £15.6 million (£10.2 million), after a £11 million gain from the sale of the tyres division

Bid-target Capital out to buy casino

By Keith Rodgers and Jason Nisse

CAPITAL Corporation, the casino group that last month saw a £192 million bid from London Clubs International referred to the Monoplies and Mergers Commission, has been in talks to buy another London casino for a sum thought to exceed £20 million.

The deal to purchase the Cromwell Mint casino, in Cromwell Road, Kensington, has been put on hold amid concern that Capital shareholders, led by Mercury Asset Management and Fidelity, would not back it.

However, gaming sources said that Stephen Rutland, owner of Cromwell Mint, was keen on the deal when it was proposed to him by Garry Nesbitt, Capital's chairman.

Cromwell is owned by Cromwell Sporting Enterprises, which had turnover of £7.5 million in its financial year to April 1996, but made a profit of just £5,500.

A purchase of Cromwell would make it harder for London Clubs to buy Capital, but would not necessarily persuade the MMC to block the bid. The MMC is currently deciding whether a purchase by London Clubs would create a monopoly of high-rolling casinos in London and may ask London Clubs to make disposals if it lets the deal go through.

A decision is due to made in July. London Clubs has withdrawn its offer pending the MMC's ruling.

Many in the casino industry believe that London Clubs may now attract a bid from Ladbroke, which has signalled that it may return to casinos.

United News ready to take DTN stake

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, owner of the Express newspapers and Anglia and Merdian ITV companies, said it will take a 30 per cent stake in the Digital Terrestrial Network consortium if the consortium wins the right to start digital TV broadcasts. United said the cost of the stake would be £120 million over a four-year period, beginning in 1998.

DTN, led by International CableTel, an American cable and media company, will learn later this month whether it has won the digital terrestrial licence. Its only competitor is British Digital Broadcasting, owned by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. Analysts said that the Carlton-led group has stronger programming, while DTN's strength is the range of interactive services it intends to offer.

Tettamanti moves in

TITO TETTAMANTI is to become chairman of English & Overseas Properties, the property investment company that yesterday announced plans to raise £13.4 million for acquisitions. The company is raising £12.7 million via a 1-for-1 rights issue of convertible preference shares at 16p a share and £650,000 through a placing of ordinary shares. Dr Tettamanti, formerly controlling shareholder of Saurer, the Swiss company, will hold 17.16 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Countrywide optimism

SHARES in Hambro Countrywide rose 2½p to 138½p after the estate agent told shareholders at its annual meeting that the number of new sales agreed in the first four months has substantially exceeded the total achieved in the same period of 1996. Christopher Sporborg, chairman, also said the housing recovery had become sufficiently well established to withstand further modest interest rate rises. Mr Sporborg said the fee value of transactions was 26 per cent up.

Sony's record year

SONY unveiled record group profits for the last business year, aided by robust global sales and a weak yen. The Japanese electronics company predicted further growth this year. Sony's group net profit was 139.46 billion yen ($1.12 billion) in the year to March, up 260 per cent. Parent profit was 85.73 billion yen ($691 million), a threefold increase on the previous year. Sony said that sales rose in all its business areas, including electronics, entertainment, insurance and financing.

Offer pricing proposals

OFFER, the electricity industry regulator, said in a consultation paper that the scope of price restraint proposals should cover all domestic customers and extend to business customers with annual consumption below 12,000 kwh. Stephen Littlechild, director-general of electricity supply, said: "This will cover the smaller business customers most similar to domestic customers and most in need of protection during the coming transitional period on prices."

AT&T trio join partner

AT&T said that three key executives are leaving its wireless communications business to join a start-up firm that will become a partner with the telecommunications company in entering local phone markets. Wayne Perry, Steve Hooper and Gerry Salemme are leaving to rejoin Craig McCaw, who founded McCaw Cellular Communications in the 1970s and sold it to AT&T in 1994. The three will head Mr McCaw's OneComm LLC, a provider of competitive local phone services.

IBM buys in Advantis

IBM, the computer company, has acquired the outstanding 30 per cent interest it did not already own in Advantis, the network data services firm, from Sears, the US department stores company, for $450 million. Advantis forms part of IBM's Global Services subsidiary, which had revenues of $22.9 billion in 1996. It is IBM's fastest-growing business, with Lou Gerstner, IBM chief executive, telling analysts this week that he expected it to hire 15,000 people this year.

Bre-X files complaint

DAVID WALSH, president of Bre-X Minerals, has filed an official complaint, with the police alleging that his company was the victim of a massive fraud. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said Mr Walsh had not named any perpetrator. So far, at least eight class-action suits have been filed, alleging fraud, and naming Mr Walsh and Bre-X as defendants. The RCMP and the Alberta and Ontario Securities Commissions have begun inquiries.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	20.46	18.91
Belgium Fr	60.22	55.58
Canada $	2.367	2.182
Cyprus Cyp£	0.868	0.801
Denmark Kr	11.11	10.28
Finland Mkk	8.89	8.19
France Fr	9.79	9.06
Germany Dm	2.92	2.70
Greece Dr	466	429
Hong Kong $	13.26	12.16
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.04
Israel Shk	5.60	5.15
Italy Lira	2906	2687
Japan Yen	214.70	198.20
Malta	0.657	0.600
Netherlds Gld	3.302	3.024
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	12.08	11.20
Portugal Esc	290.50	270.00
S Africa Rd	7.93	7.01
Spain Pta	245.00	227.00
Sweden Kr	13.26	12.23
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.28
Turkey Lira	227640	213120
USA $	1.719	1.585

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WHAT EVERY COMPANY DIRECTOR NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT BRITAIN'S MULTI-BILLION POUND 'TIME BOMB'
THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

News Corp profits jump 23%

By Eric Reguly

THE success of the re-released *Star Wars* trilogy and improved results from its British newspaper division helped The News Corporation, owner of *The Times*, to report a sharp increase in profits.

In the nine months to March 31, operating profit before abnormal items was $867 million, up 23 per cent. The three *Star Wars Special Edition* films have generated US domestic box office sales of $249 million since their release in January. Their success helped to lift operating income in the filmed entertainment division more than 100 per cent, to $223 million.

Analysts said the division's results are not likely to be as strong in the next two quarters because *Volcano*, an expensive 20th Century Fox film, is not performing well at the box office. Advertising gains, increased circulation revenues and lower paper prices combined to lift operating profits in the newspaper division by 23 per cent, to $336 million.

However, book publishing, dominated by HarperCollins, made operating income of $11 million ($54 million).

Remand in $311m fraud hearing

By Robert Miller

A MAN alleged to have held cheques from Bank of America worth $311 million was yesterday remanded in custody for a second week at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in central London.

The court was told that Gary Boothe, a Nigerian citizen, was not the true identity of the man in the dock.

Mr Boothe has been charged with conspiracy to defraud and an attempt to obtain $200,000 from Michael Armstrong, and of having in his possession a Bank of America cheque in the sum of $17.5 million.

The court was told that a lengthy investigation, code-named Operation Delphin, was now being conducted in connection with the case by officers from the company fraud division of the Metropolitan Police.

Deputy Jeffrey Yearwood, the magistrate, told Mr Boothe, who did not apply for bail: "Owing to the seriousness and the gravity of the case you face I fear that if you were granted bail you might fail to attend. I am remanding you in custody for one week."

PIA sets sights on Burns Anderson

BURNS ANDERSON, one of the UK's biggest network of financial advisers, could be forced to pay compensation of up to £5 million to 200 property investors after a review by the Personal Investment Authority ombudsman (Caroline Merrell writes).

The ombudsman is to examine the cases of ten investors who put money with Steeds Financial Services, formerly a member of the Burns Anderson Independent Network Group.

Steeds, of Lincolnshire, encouraged investors to buy shares in Villa Investments Plan, a Spanish property scheme. When Steeds went in to receivership two years ago, investors found that shares in the plan had been sold more than once. Faced with losses of £5 million, 200 investors have been pressing for compensation but Burns Anderson claims the investments were outside the Financial Services Act and therefore not liable for any compensation.

The attempt by Burns Anderson in court to challenge whether the matter fell within the ombudsman's jurisdiction was dismissed. If found liable, Burns Anderson will try to recover the £5 million loss from its professional indemnity cover. However, insurers have previously been reluctant to pay out on these sorts of cases.

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☐ Business in need of a coherent tax target ☐ Seeking fresh impetus for a sensible idea ☐ Slapped wrist for train operator

Sterling threat covered in confusion

☐ GRIM WARNINGS about the perils of living with a strong pound have now developed into such a clamour that one suspects the chorus might be a synchronised sigh of relief from businessmen who have found a useful excuse for some disappointing figures.

The stock market's reaction to BTR's plaintive moanings yesterday indicated that some shareholders were not entirely convinced that sterling should be held entirely to blame for the company's latest profit slide.

For Ian Strachan there should have been some compensation for the pain of seeing £1.7 billion stripped from the valuation of his company in the fact that the culpable pound took a beating yesterday. But its slide should be but temporary since it was a headstrong response to a misguided fear that the Government was about to rush into the ERM.

It will take more than rumour-mongering to bring the pound down to the levels that would make signing up to European Monetary Union feasible and, simultaneously, stop the whingeing from exporters. What the whingers now call for is a moratorium on interest rate rises that would strengthen the currency. If the Government wants to dampen the economy, they say, it should use taxes.

If the sight of the business community telling a Labour Government to raise taxes seems slightly surreal, the variety of their thoughts on quite where the increased tax burden should fall is positively bizarre.

The Institute of Directors would like to see public spending cut further but is prepared to accept the abolition of mortgage interest rate relief to bridge the fiscal gap. But this offends the British Chambers of Commerce, which is worried its construction members will suffer from a slowdown in the housing market. The BCC has called for a penny rise in income tax to take the pressure off rates — utterly irrelevant since Labour has already ruled out any rises in income tax rates.

The Federation of Small Businesses is pushing for two-tier interest rates. The Confederation of British Industry is yet to spell out what measures it would like to see taken, in spite of its persistent calls for tax, rather than interest rate, rises.

Without a coherent tax target, business is in danger of getting all the rises it has called for, but not in the form it wants. Companies are as attractive a target for Labour as consumers. Only British Steel, which repeated its warnings about the threat of sterling yesterday, seems to have accepted that a mixture of personal and corporation tax increases is realistic. The CBI will not find itself popular with members, let alone the National Association of Pension Funds, if its campaign leads to increases in corporation and pension taxes.

New initiative needed for PFI

☐ THE Private Finance Initiative was a wizard wheeze, dreamt up by the last Government as a means of bringing important public building projects to fruition without burdening the public finances. New Labour can see the joys of PFI, a wondrous way of providing all those hospitals that local MPs have promised to Labour voters without upsetting Chancellor Gordon Brown's pledges to stick to Conservative expenditure strictures.

But construction companies have been understandably wary of PFI. Big projects involve risk and builders just recovering from the hammering they took during the recession have been reluctant to walk into new dangers. The few PFI schemes which have moved beyond the realms of wishful thinking are those where the risks have been minimal and the rewards potentially very attractive, such as the fast rail link to the Channel Tunnel.

The National Health Service has come up with numerous potential PFI schemes but almost all have stalled. The contractors prepared to tender have found the process hugely expensive, with specifications changing along the way and clients who often seem unaware of commercial reality. And even if practical hurdles could be overcome, there remains one over-riding difficulty: the builder who invests in a state of the art regional hospital is frighteningly dependent on one major client. Without substantial guarantees of future NHS policies and pocket depth, most companies would regard it as foolhardy to take on such a project.

But these obstacles should not be insurmountable. The principle of PFI is a sensible one. If it is to be put to effective use, it requires a different mind-set on the part of those in the public sector who want the involvement of the commercial world. If Malcolm Bates, the former deputy managing director of GEC, can achieve that, he will have done a service to both the public and the private sectors.

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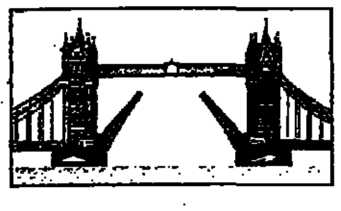


Regulation off the rails

☐ WOULD-BE commuters on South West Trains must have hoped that the company's dismal failure to provide a proper service would be punished on a scale commensurate with the misery they had to endure. Yesterday's news that rail regulator John O'Brien has instead whisked a wet lettuce leaf across their wrists will be a grave disappointment.

John Prescott, the burly new transport supremo, will have taken some persuading that SWT should not be heavily fined for the delays this spring, but merely docked its subsidy by a certain amount for each cancelled train. This is equivalent to setting parking fines by reference to the cost of waiting a meter, but it is all the franchising director claims he can do.

He insists that the the Railway Act 1993 does not allow any other course of action. This is arguable, and his office may have relied on promises that the SWT service would improve rather earlier than it actually did. This is by now a sterile argument. The best we can hope will come out of the affair is a tightening of his powers, ideally to a "fine-as-you-go" approach.

Mr O'Brien, who had a "lively discussion" with Mr Prescott yesterday, has been told to come up with ideas. Failure might see his £135,000-a-year contract, due to end in August 1999, being cancelled as abruptly as some of those trains.

Short-sighted lady

☐ THE record prison sentence for the BCCI fraudster does not mark the end of the dreadful saga. We may yet face the spectacle of the Bank of England being sued for its failure to protect citizens from the bogus bank. It is to be hoped that the Government's shake-up in Threadneedle Street will ensure that the Old Lady's determined blindness to BICC's short-comings is never repeated.

TeleWest ready for digital launch

By Eric Reguly

TELEWEST Communications, the second largest cable company, said it will be ready to launch digital TV services, with as many as 150 channels, by the end of they year.

Stephen Davidison, chief executive, said the company may buy the services offered by British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the group led by BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, and BT, to help to make its digital package more attractive. BIB services will allow viewers with digital set-top boxes to shop, do their banking, book holidays and play computer games from home.

TeleWest is considering raising about $300 million in "junk bond" debt to finance its move into the digital market. The money would be used to convert its networks to digital technology and buy set-top boxes for cable TV customers.

TeleWest downplayed suggestions that it will have to form its own alliance or acquire other cable companies to improve its fortunes. TeleWest has been overshadowed by Cable and Wireless Communications, created last month by the merger of Mercury and three large cable companies.

TeleWest reported a pre-tax loss of £69.5 million in the quarter to March 31 (£53.4 million loss). The company said the loss was expected and was because of continued spending on expanding its network, which is now 68 per cent built.

Tempus, page 28

Kwik Save paying £25m for restructuring advice

By Sarah Cunningham

KWIK SAVE, the struggling discount supermarket chain, is set to make provisions for £18 million over the next two years to cover payments to Andersen Consulting, the management consultancy working on its restructuring.

Andersen Consulting has already been paid about £7 million for advice given in the last nine months.

Kwik Save's shares fell yesterday after it revealed that despite the first restructuring efforts, customer numbers have fallen while current comparable store sales are down 6 per cent. Graeme Bowler, chief executive, said sales looked particularly poor because trading at the same time last year was boosted by a vigorous price campaign.

The shares closed down 17p at 291p. Analysts said that they were confused by the company's strategy and questioned the amount being spent on consultants. "The place is being run by Andersen's. Why don't they just get a new management team?" one said.

Mr Bowler insisted that the board had the full support of its main shareholder, Dairy Farm, which has a 29.9 per cent stake.

Pre-tax profit in the six month to March 15 was £40.7 million (£44.2 million). The fall was due to the £4.1 million restructuring provision taken in the first half. The provision for the full year is expected to be about £10 million and about £18 million next year.

Like-for-like sales during the first half were down 1.6 per cent. Mr Bowler said that despite the continued fall in recent weeks, he hopes to have neutral or positive sales growth by the end of this calender year.

The first fruits of the restructuring, which began last November, is a new-format store in Northwich, Cheshire, which was opened last month. A further four "new generation" stores are set to open this year and a roll-out across the 1,000-store chain will then take up to five years.

The company, which has now carried out around half of the 107 store closures it announced last year, has just launched 152 own-brand products and will bring in another 150 this year. It is aiming for 1,000 own-brand products.

Capital expenditure has been held down in the first half to £6.5 million and is set to come in at £35 million in the full year. Earnings per share were 16.99p (18.45p) and the interim dividend, payable on July 7, has been maintained at 5.95p per share.

Tempus, page 28

Body Shop faces French closures

By Sarah Cunningham

THE Body Shop has set aside £6.5 million to cover the possible cost of pulling out of France, where it saw sales plunge by 14 per cent last year.

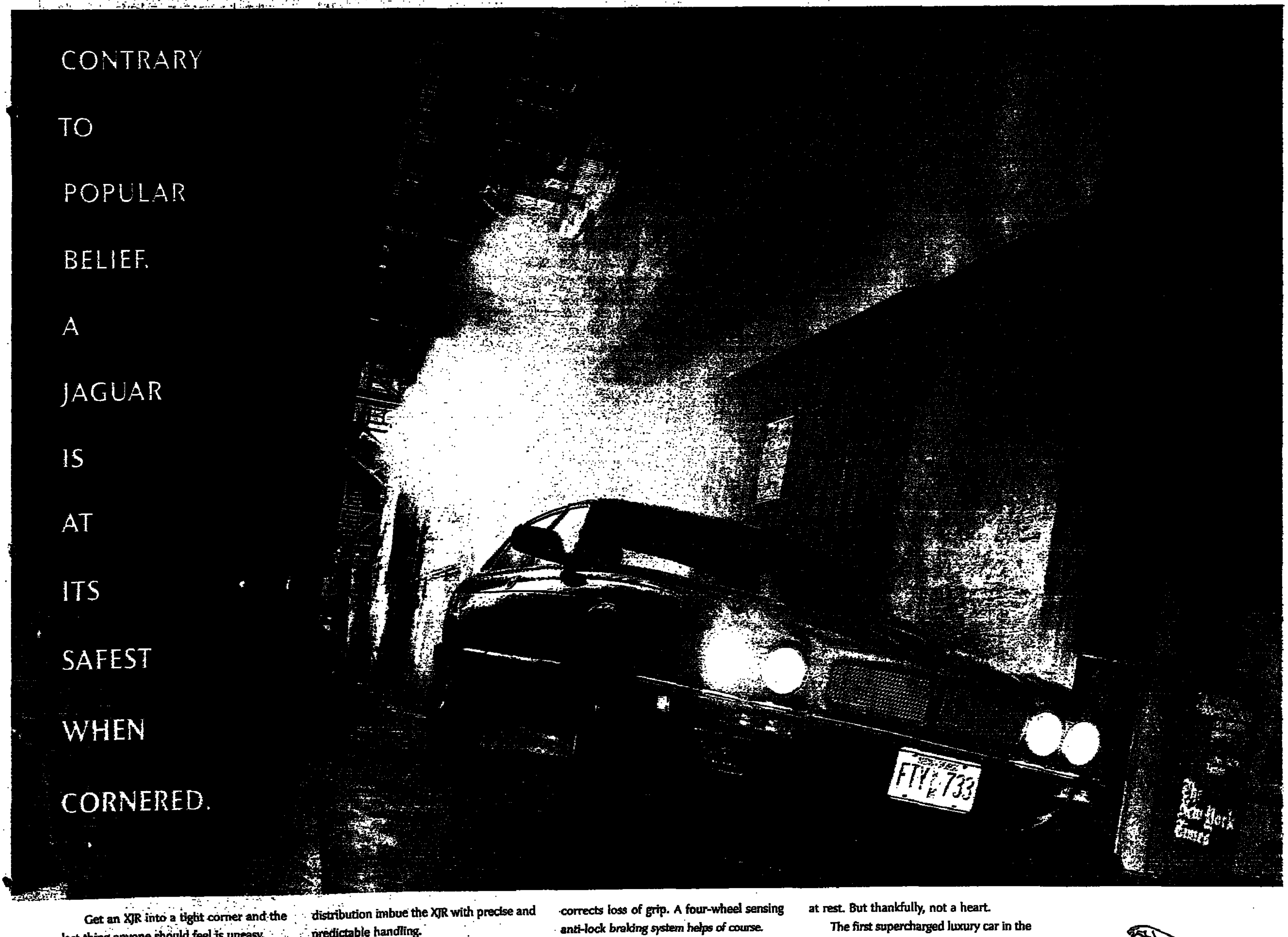
Gordon Roddick, chairman, said he hoped to avoid closing the 32 shops, which account for just 1.4 per cent of group sales. The franchise agreement with the current holder, who is British, is being terminated. Body Shop is in talks with possible French partners.

The £6.5 million exceptional charge meant that Body Shop's pre-tax profit for the year to March 1 fell from £32.7 million to £31.7 million. Retail sales grew 8 per cent to £622.5 million.

Mr Roddick blamed the strikes and terrorist attacks in Paris last year for the decline in French sales. The agreement with the current franchisee has been ended amicably, he said. "He [the franchisee] did very well from 1991 to 1995, but France as an investment needs more resources than he could put into it."

Like-for-like sales in the first eight weeks are down 2 per cent, with Asia down 10 per cent. Mr Roddick said he was not worried about this because it reflected the busy opening programme, which has put total retail sales up 7 per cent worldwide and 18 per cent in Asia.

Earnings per share, including exceptional items, were 9.2p (9.8p) and the final dividend is 3.2p, payable on May 23, giving a total for the year of 4.7p, up from 3.4p.



Get an XJR into a tight corner and the last thing anyone should feel is uneasy.

Low profile sports suspension, a low centre of gravity that has become a Jaguar hallmark, high rigidity and perfect weight distribution imbue the XJR with precise and predictable handling.

The road couldn't be any more tightly held thanks to our cutting-edge brake and throttle traction control which senses and corrects loss of grip. A four-wheel sensing anti-lock braking system helps of course.

As do the vacuum-boosted all-round ventilated disc brakes.

The Jaguar XJR can certainly put a mind at rest. But thankfully, not a heart.

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22

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

New York's bulls push London to closing high

SHARE prices on the London market closed at their highest in response to another storming performance by the bulls on Wall Street.

During another helter-skelter performance the Dow Jones industrial average soared 100 points in early trading, wiping out much of Wednesday's 143-point fall. This enabled the FT-SE 100 index to erase a 20-point deficit before closing 42.9 up at a record high of 4,580.4. In the week since the Labour Party swept to power, the index has leapt 135 points.

The performance was underpinned by further solid gains in government securities, reflecting the overnight setback for the pound amid claims Britain would re-join the exchange-rate mechanism at the low rate of DM2.50.

By the close, a total of 958 million shares had changed hands but there was evidence to suggest that demand had once again far outweighed available stock. The financial sector and utilities enjoyed the best of the mark-up.

In banks **Alliance & Leicester** stood out with a rise of 41p at 626½p. The shares stand a full 100p above the level they were floated at last month. There were also gains for **Abbey National**, 36p to 884½p, **HSBC**, 91p to £17.95, **Lloyds TSB**, 24½p to 602½p, **NatWest**, 21½p to 785p, **Royal Bank of Scotland**, 17½p to 602½p, and **Standard Chartered**, 33½p to 980½p.

Elsewhere among financials **Commercial Union** put on 18p at 731½p, and **General Accident** 26p at 953½p.

The utilities saw **National Grid** expand 9p at 233½p, **United Utilities** 9p at 676½p, and **Wessex Water** 12½p at 390p. **Railtrack** also overcame recent nervousness about the new Labour administration to finish 20p dearer at 447½p.

The profit warning from hapless **BTR** slashed £1.6 billion from its £10.75 billion stock market price tag as the price tumbled 36½p to 231p. It was also the signal for one disgruntled fund manager to unload a line of 79.31 million shares, or almost 2 per cent of the issued share capital, at a sizeable discount to the ruling market price. SBC Warburg, the broker, paid 215½p (£170.9 million) for the stake as a bought deal. Most of the shares were then quickly sold on in two seperate lines of 48.02 million and 23 million at 219p. The sale of the entire stake at 219p would have netted Warburg a handsome profit of £2.77 million. By the close a total of 225.7 million shares had changed hands. The 1997 warrants also finished 12¾p down at 9p.

Phil Smith, of Kwik Save, saw the shares fall 17p to 291p

. At the same time as it began placing the shares, Warburg moved its recommendation for the shares from a "buy" to a "hold". Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has cut its profit forecast from £1.32 billion to £1.2 billion and rates the shares a "hold", while Credit Lyonnais Laing was urging clients to use the weakness to buy the shares as it cut its forecast from £1.3 billion to £1.25 billion.

Cable and Wireless finished 5p better at 501½p reflecting bumper profit news from its associate Hong Kong Telecom. C&W reports full-year figures next week and is expected to show pre-tax profits up from £1.26 billion to £1.35 billion.

Housebuilder **Raine** firmed 2p to 20p as **Alfred McAlpine** launched an agreed £44.3 million bid. The terms value Raine at 23.5p and McAlpine has received acceptances totalling almost 20 per cent, including the stake held by PDFM, the fund manager. The decision to finance by a rights issue left the McAlpine share price 13½p lower at 153½p.

Brokers were unimpressed with figures from **Body Shop**, including a £6.5 million hit on its French operation. Shares finished 2p lighter at 188½p. But **Dixons** put on 12½p at 536½p with the help of a profit upgrade and positive comments from SBC Warburg.

The rest of the stores fared better, encouraged by the latest CBI retail survey. **Kingfisher** rose 14p to 719p, **Argos** 4p to 649p, **DFS Furniture** 4p to 572p, **JJB Sports** 5½p to 486½p, **Next** 4½p to 688½p, **Stylo** 7½p to 125p, and **WH Smith** 4½p to 480p.

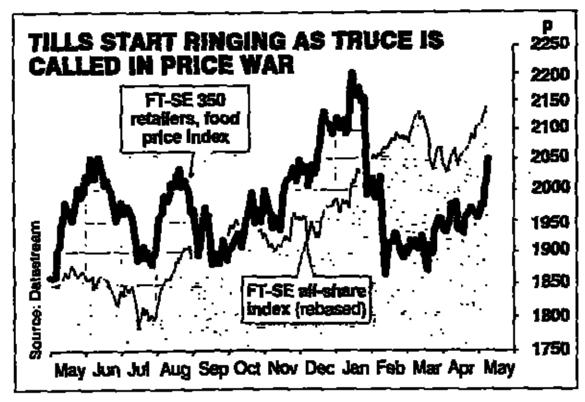
Some positive comments on current trading lifted **Cadbury Schweppes** 7p to 529p. Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the group would shrug off the ill-effects of a strong pound.

Pan Andean Resources touched 27½p before ending the session 14p down at 34½p. It follows a dispute with its partner BHP, the Australian mining giant. Their Chapare venture in Bolivia is to be terminated.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A sharp fall in the pound overnight in New York paved the way for another buoyant performance among bonds. A bullish CBI retail survey also bolstered sentiment enabling the market to end the session on a high note. In the futures pit the June series of the long gilt ended £$^{19}/_{32}$ higher at £113⅞, a full £1 above its low. A total of 108,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 posted a rise of £$^{19}/_{32}$ at £109$^{3}/_{32}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £⅛ better at £103$^{7}/_{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street extended gains in the afternoon as Dow Jones industrial average continued to retrace yesterday's losses. At midday, it was 73.45 points up at 7,159.10.



J SAINSBURY extended its rally with a rise of 9½p at 358½p. Brokers are more optimistic about the sector. Tony MacNeary, at NatWest Securities, says the increase in like-for-like sales reported by Sainsbury, Tesco, up 3½p at 378p, and Asda, 1½p firmer at 118¾p, is positive.

"The mirror image confirms the big boys are back on top. A bit of the comfort factor has crept back in", he says. The improvement in sales could encourage the big players to take a less aggressive view on margins.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, says Sainsbury's less aggressive stance on prices could benefit the rest of the sector. Safeway rose 10p to 343p, after hitting a high of 430p this year, with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson urging clients to switch out of Sainsbury. Figures due out next week should show profits up from £401 million to £427 million.

However, the 7 per cent drop in like-for-like sales at Kwik Save in the first seven weeks of the year left the shares 17p down at 291p. It also hurt Iceland which was 5½p lower at 85½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	7159.10 (+73.45)
S&P Composite	822.94 (+7.32)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20061.81 (+12.91)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	13740.30 (+134.39)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	Closed

Sydney:

AO	2504.7 (-12.9)

Frankfurt:

DAX	Closed

Singapore:

Straits	2059.38 (-8.75)

Brussels:

General	Closed

Paris:

CAC-40	Closed

Zurich:

SKA Gen	Closed

London:

FT 30	2947.0 (-0.9)
FTSE 100	4580.4 (+42.9)
FTSE 250	4510.4 (-8.6)
FTSE 350	2226.2 (+15.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2286.39 (-1.80)
FTSE All-Share	2188.16 (+14.36)
FTSE Non Financials	2202.85 (+2.39)
FTSE Fixed Interest	119.29 (+0.10)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.59 (-0.05)
Bargains	48701
SEAQ Volume	958.0m
US$	1.6205 (-0.0153)
German Mark	2.7678 (-0.0448)
Exchange Index	98.8 (-1.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4362
£:SDR	1.1948
RPI	155.4 Mar (2.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	154.9 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	626½	+ 41
Aston Villa	950	-120
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Cable & Wireless	286	- 2
Charlton Athletic	57½	...
Close Bros Prot VCT	95	...
Comino	147½	- 2
Donatantonio	81½	...
Dragons Hlth Clubs	125½	...
Heal's	212½	...
ITG Group	162½	...
Lady in Leisure	130½	...
Longbridge Intl	115½	...
Mrtn Currie I&G Cap	91½	...
Mrtn Currie I&G Inc	98	...
NMT (50)	49½	+ 1
Newcastle Utd	119	...
Northstar Secs	29	...
Oxford Tech Venture	95	...
Partners Hldgs	171½	...
Pennine AIM (100)	100	...
Petra Diamonds	57½	- 7
Petra Diamonds Wts	34½	- 5
Qualceram (143)	155½	...
Salehurst	121½	- 1
Soccer Investments	103½	...
Torch Hldgs	107½	...
United Overseas Grp	75	+ 5

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ask Central n/p (160)	57½	+ 22½
Barlows n/p (525)	3	...
Break for the Brdr (51)	1½	...
Rackwood Mnrl (50)	½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Silentnight	327½p (+30p)
Alliance & Leic	626½p (+41p)
Filtronic Com	330p (+18½p)
Abbey Natl	884½p (+36p)
Sainsbury J	360p (+11p)

FALLS:

Kwik Save	291p (-17p)
MAID	214p (-9p)
Cortecs	253½p (-9p)
Johnson Matth	477½p (-9p)
Abbott Mead	703p (-12p)
Man Utd	621½p (-17½p)

Closing Prices Page

TEMPUS

Saving Kwik Save

KWIK SAVE is paying an awful lot for advice from Andersen Consulting, and it does not look like good value for money.

The first "new generation" Kwik Save, which opened in Cheshire last month and which is the product of Andersen's greatest minds, sounds a lot like ... a normal supermarket.

A year ago, "old generation" Kwik Save was selling 3p tins of baked beans and 8p tins of tomatoes straight out of cardboard boxes, only to discover — surprise, surprise — that it was losing a fortune in the process.

The "new generation" Kwik Save gives us wider aisles, own-labels, more fresh produce and decent lighting. The resulting shop sounds a lot like any small branch of Tesco or Sainsbury's, but without either of those magic names above the door to entice customers in.

Kwik Save is not wrong to try new formats, because its old heavy-discounting formula had had its day. However, Andersen's plan looks both expensive and uninspired, while the slow pace at which the new-look stores are being introduced hardly instils confidence.

Kwik Save is in a very tight corner. Although the current 6 per cent fall in like-for-like sales can be explained by tough comparatives with last year, the drop in customer numbers cannot be explained away and is only likely to get worse.

It would be nice to think that another retailer, perhaps Spar or Aldi, might be waiting to swoop on Kwik Save. However, although its shares are down to 291p, from more than 700p two years ago, it is probably still too expensive. Even at a 40 per cent discount to the market, Kwik Save is one to avoid.

Lonrho

THERE'S a bit in Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* where the boyish dreamer of the title sits down with an onion. He peels it. As each layer comes off, he says farewell to one of the surreal fantasies that cloaked his ultimately rather empty life.

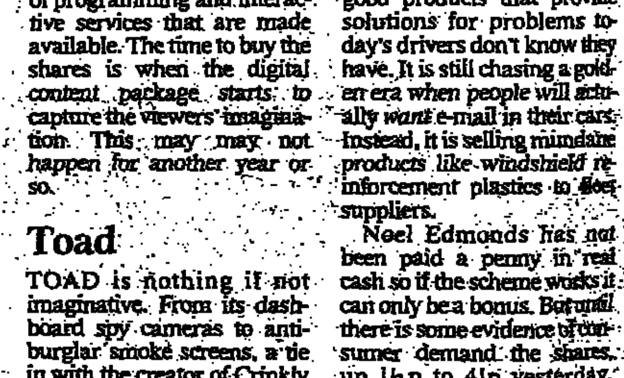
There's a touch of the onion peeler about Lonrho. The conglomerate is committed to tearing off its own strange layers to rediscover an authentic core: mining.

Yesterday's sale of Lonrho Sugar Corp for £227 million saw another bit go. It was a good price, with most of the proceeds reducing debts to provide vital breathing space as the Princess Hotels saga drags on.

The intention is to separate mining and African trading interests by the end of the year. A host of firms are possible sale or floats, including Dutton Forshaw, its motor dealer, FE Wright, its Lloyd's insurance broker, and Cramlington Textiles.

The number of seemingly extraneous businesses might persuade investors that the 137p share price doesn't reflect the latent value. But getting a fair price for all the bits will be very difficult: just look at the hotel saga. And there is the immediate problem of Anglo-American having to get rid of its 28 per cent.

Peer Gynt's big worry comes when he peels back the last onion layer and finds nothing at the core. Lonrho will definitely have something left, but the shareholder benefit may well not be as attractive as hoped. Steer clear.



TeleWest

TELEWEST Communications needs a break. For much of last year the cable company had a lame-duck acting chief executive because of chronic wavering among its American shareholders. It lost its title as the largest player in the industry with the flotation of Cable and Wireless Communications, formed from the merger of Mercury and three cable companies.

In the intervening months, the shares have been on the wane. They are now trading at about 83p, which is less than half their 182p flotation price.

The shares are starting to look cheap, but now is not the time to buy. If TeleWest completes a planned $300 million junk bond financing, they could slide again. Junk bond debt is expensive: it can carry interest charges as high as 13 per cent.

The junk bonds will come as a mixed blessing. They will add another layer of debt to the already highly leveraged company, but the money will be used for a good cause. TeleWest will spend it to convert its networks to digital technology and buy digital set-top boxes for its cable TV customers.

In the long run, digital technology is the way to go because it will provide viewers with unprecedented choice. But success will depend entirely on the quality of programming and interactive services that are made available. The time to buy the shares is when the digital content package starts to capture the viewers' imagination. This may may not happen for another year or so.

Toad

TOAD is nothing if not imaginative. From its dashboard spy cameras to anti-burglar smoke screens, a tie in with the creator of Crinkly Bottom is nothing less than what the company has taught the market to expect. Still, its last surprise — the resignation of Charles Parker as chief executive after 29 days in the job — lingers in the minds of City investors.

All eyes are on Dr Chris Evans. He has made millions for shareholders in his biotech companies, and is desperately trying to scrub out a stain on an otherwise successful City career.

Toad's trouble is that it has good products that provide solutions for problems today's drivers don't know they have. It is still chasing a golden era when people will actually want e-mail in their cars. Instead, it is selling mundane products like windshield reinforcement plastics to fleet suppliers.

Noel Edmonds has not been paid a penny in real cash so if the scheme works it can only be a bonus. But until there is some evidence of consumer demand the shares, up 1½p to 41p yesterday, should be avoided.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	986-980	Jul	1050-1047
Jul	1006-1005	Sep	1056-1050
Sep	1024-1022	Dec	1073-1071
Dec	1017-1016	Mar	1065-1062
Mar	1025-1024		
May	1035-1034	Volume:	6814

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1720 SLR	Jan	1765 SLR
Jul	1780 SLR	Mar	1745-1720
Sep	1792-1790	May	unq
Nov	1790-1785	Volume:	6252

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	302.3-00.8
Spot: 315.5		May	302.7-01.1
Aug	312.4-11.8	Aug	304.7-03.0
Oct	303.8-02.9	Oct	301.5-01.0
Dec	302.3-01.0	Volume:	943

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on May 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	106.13	142.30	91.11
(+/-)	-8.26	+2.09	+1.07
Eng/Wales:	106.13	140.70	91.07
(+/-)	-8.26	+4.20	+1.08
(%)	+14.0	+4.0	-2.0
Scotland:	unq	129.14	93.38
(+/-)		+11.00	+1.09
(%)		-42.0	-15.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.30	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.55	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.55	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.15	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.15	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	200 (n/c)	202 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	171 (+1)	173 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	78 (n/c)	80 (n/c)
Naphtha	175 (n/c)	178 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	169.00-69.25	Aug	170.25-70.50
Jun	167.50-67.75	Sep	172.00-72.50
Jul	168.75-69.00		Vol: 20179

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.51-18.53	Sep	18.70 BID
Jul	18.54-18.57	Oct	18.73 BID
Aug	18.54-18.65		Vol. 38240

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	91.60	May	90.50
Jul	93.55	Sep	90.50
Sep	94.60	Nov	92.50
Nov	96.60	Jan	94.50
Jan	98.60	Mar	96.50
Volume: 765		Volume: 25	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Jan	unq	30.0
Nov		78.0
Mar		105.0
		Volume: 71

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 71.00-71.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 97	1320	1310	1337
Jun 97	1285	1275	1280
Jul 97	unq	unq	1225
Oct 97	—	—	1720
Vol: 70 lots		Open interest:	2446

Index 1272 +3

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2442.0-2443.0	2376.0-2379.2	206470
Lead ($/tonne)	624.50-625.00	635.00-635.50	14600
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1304.5-1305.5	1324.0-1324.5	443350
Tin ($/tonne)	5830.0-5835.0	5850.0-5855.0	2428
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1642.0-1643.0	1665.0-1665.5	284540
Nickel ($/tonne)	7625.0-7630.0	7740.0-7745.0	157644

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom	420	22½	33½	39½	11	19	29
(*435)	460	7	16	21½	38	42½	53
ASDA	110	11½	13½	15½	1½	4	5½
(*118½)	130	4½	8	10	9½	8½	9½
Boots	700	34	46	55	17½	25½	31½
(*710)	750	10½	23	31½	48½	54	59
Br Airways	650	54½	65	75	9½	19½	21
(*698)	700	22½	38½	50	29	38	42
BP	700	38	55	65½	15½	26	34
(*722½)	750	14½	31½	41½	43	54	59½
Br Steel	140	12	13½	15	5	8	10
(*148½)	160	2½	5½	7	20	21	23
C & W	460	48	57½	68	8	15½	21½
(*499)	500	23	34½	46½	23½	32½	39
CU	700	53½	70½	93½	21	45	52½
(*727)	750	26	51	68½	45	70½	78
ICI	750	36	50½	66	19	32½	35½
(*759)	800	15½	27	42½	48	60½	63
Land Sec	800	55	62	72½	9½	17	23½
(*849)	850	20	33	45	32½	39½	40
M & S	500	17	29	36½	19	23	27½
(*508)	550	3½	11	17	55½	57½	60
Nat West	750	54½	60½	80	19½	32	39
(*781)	800	26½	41½	59½	48	57	62½
Safeway plc	330	19½	26½	33½	12	16	20½
(*343)	360	6½	13½	22½	31	33	37½
Sainsbury	330	29½	35	40½	4½	9	11½
(*359½)	360	9	16½	24½	17½	21½	25
Shell	1100	49½	72	87½	26	44½	54½
(*1107½)	1150	23½	47½	63½	53½	71½	81
Smkl Bch	1000	49	77½	98	37	52	61
(*1007½)	1050	27	54½	74	65½	79	87
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1900	102	145½	187	55	90½	102
(*1922½)	2000	59½	97½	137	112½	142½	152½

Series		Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAT Ind	500	45½	56½	68½	14	27½	34
(*520½)	550	20½	33	45	38½	54½	60½
Vodafone	260	26	33½	39½	5	10	13½
(*279½)	280	14	23	29	15	18½	22½

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	500	21	34½	44½	2½	14½	19
(*517)	550	1	13½	21	33	42	46½
Ladbroke	240	7½	17	22	3	8½	12
(*244½)	260	1	8	13	16	19½	23½
Utd Bisc	200	19	25½	29	0	3½	7
(*219½)	220	3½	13½	17	5	11	16

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	500	42	50½	59	6½	11½	16½
(*534½)	550	12½	22½	32½	30	34	40
Thames W	650	40	49	55	27½	34	42
(*672½)	700	16½	27	33	58½	67	71

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	220	12	19	24½	2	8	13
(*228)	240	3	10½	15	13	18½	23½
Br Aero	1250	56	99½	130	5	25½	40½
(*1298½)	1300	22	70	92½	20½	45	62
Br Telcm	420	32	41½	44½	1	13	19½
(*450½)	460	4	18½	21½	12½	34	30½
Cadbury	500	30½	46½	53½	1	8	15
(*528½)	550	4	19½	28	23	31	38
Guinness	500	22	38½	48	2	11	19½
(*519)	550	1	13½	23	31	37	41
GEC	360	12	22	28	2½	14½	19
(*368½)	390	1	8	14½	21½	33½	37
Hanson	300	20	31½	36½	1	8	13
(*318½)	330	2½	15	21	14	22	27½
LASMO	220	15	22½	30	1½	6½	9½
(*233)	240	3½	11½	19	10	15	18½
LucasVarity	180	12	17½	21	1	6	9
(*190)	200	1½	8½	11½	11	16½	19½
Pilkingtn	110	9½	10½	—	1	6½	—
(*116)	120	1	6	—	6½	12½	—
Prudential	600	43½	63	74½	1	12	20½
(*641)	650	10	37½	46	16	32	41½
Redland	330	18	24	33½	4½	15½	21
(*347½)	360	3½	11	20	26½	33	38
R-Royce	240	11½	22	27½	2½	9	12½
(*244½)	260	2	12	17½	13	19	22
Tesco	360	19½	22	30½	1½	8½	13
(*376)	390	2½	15½	22	14	22	27
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4568½)

	4400	4450	4500	4550	4600	4650
Calls						
May	179½	130½	82½	44	19	5
Jun	206½	165	127	94½	66	42
Jul	237	197½	161½	130½	100	76½
Aug	250	212	178½	147	117½	93½
Dec	340	—	274½	—	211½	—
Puts						
May	1	3½	8½	19½	45½	80½
Jun	21½	31	44	62	84	113
Jul	38	49½	62½	82½	103	130½
Aug	54	64½	80½	98½	120	147
Dec	99	—	131	—	169	—

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Abby Nat	850	57	75½	95	19½	37	45½
(*877½)	900	30	49½	68½	42	65	60½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1200	60	87½	115½	42	69	81½
(*1201)	1250	38	65	92½	71	96½	108
Natl Pwr	500	42	48	51	18½	24	29½
(*530)	550	15	23	27	40½	52	56½

Series		Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo W	1150	80	97½	120½	21½	37½	50
(*1190)	1200	49	71	99	41	61½	72
HSBC	1750	142	174½	213½	32	56½	76½
(*1799)	1800	85	115½	160½	72½	102½	122½
Reuter	650	56	71½	88½	23	22	29½
(*685)	700	27	44	62	34½	61	52
Royal & Sun	500	29½	43	55	15½	24	30
(*510½)	550	10½	21½	32½	44	51½	57½

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	420	11½	25½	30½	5	15	22
(*426)	460	0½	11	19	34	38½	44½

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfshr	700	21½	47	59½	6½	22½	29½
(*719)	750	2	23½	35	36½	67½	55½

Series		Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	220	19	—	—	4½	—	—
(*235½)	240	6½	—	—	4½	—	—

Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Dixons	500	44	55	66	5	17	21½
(*536)	550	14½	27	34	29	39½	45
EMI Group	1200	61	93½	113½	21	49½	63½
(*1229½)	1250	34½	66	88½	43½	74	87½
Tarmac	120	7	13	17½	2½	6	8
(*127½)	130	2½	9	9½	8	11	13½
Hillsdwn	160	20	23½	—	½	1½	—
(*179½)	180	5½	10	—	5½	8	—
Lonrho	130	9½	14	17	3½	5	6½
(*137)	140	7	9½	12	6	9½	11
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	15½	24	29½	3	10	11½
(*273½)	280	7	12½	16	11½	20	22
Lloyds TSB	550	55½	66	82	5½	14	22
(*597)	600	22½	38	53	21½	34	43
Scot Pwr	360	18	26½	30½	9½	19	22
(*368½)	390	4½	13	17	25½	36½	[illegible]
Unilever	1600	70	111½	139½	15	34	42½
(*1646)	1700	19	57½	81½	59½	52	30

May 8, 1997 Tot: 37934 Calls: 22160 Puts: 15774 FTSE Calls: 6795 Puts: 4149

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 201741	Jun 97 Sep 97	113-02 113-09	114-02 114-03	112-28 113-09	113-28 114-03	108516 194
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest: 291303	Jun 97 Sep 97	101.59 100.50	101.85 100.54	101.31 100.37	101.71 100.71	104251 4390
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 116540	Jun 97 Sep 97	129.00 129.09	129.14 129.30	128.71 129.09	128.98 129.27	34763 356
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97 Sep 97	123.96 122.62	124.12 122.75	123.76 122.42	123.77 122.43	4885 1113
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest: 488657	Jun 97 Sep 97 Dec 97	93.41 93.16 92.99	93.45 93.23 93.04	93.41 93.16 92.98	93.44 93.20 93.02	16209 24809 25429
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1408068	Jun 97 Sep 97	96.78 96.72	96.79 96.74	96.78 96.71	96.79 96.73	5758 15851
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 308413	Jun 97 Sep 97	93.23 93.53	93.25 93.57	93.16 93.48	93.24 93.55	23886 13077
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97 Dec 97	99.12	99.12	99.12	99.12 98.89	400 0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 126574	Jun 97 Sep 97	98.11 98.11	98.19 98.18	98.10 98.09	98.19 98.18	8886 3892
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 31977	Jun 97 Sep 97	95.81 95.80	95.82 95.83	95.80 95.80	95.82 95.83	382 232
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 66535	Jun 97 Sep 97	4522.0 4599.0	4600.0 4575.0	4522.0 4557.0	4584.0 4616.0	15528 133

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¼

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6¼ Week fixed: 6¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth 6¼. Sell: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth: 6¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¾-6⅝
Interbank:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6¾-6⅝

Overnight: open 6¼, close 6½.

Local Authority Deps:	6¼	n/a	6¼	6½	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6¾-6⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.65	n/a	5.75	5.93	6.23
Building Society CDs:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6¾-6⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5½-5⅜	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	6-5⅞	5½-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3½-2¾
Swiss Franc:	1¾-1½	1¾-1⅝	1¾-1⅝	1⅞-1¾	2½-1½
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $342.20-342.60 Close: $343.55-344.05 High: $343.55-344.05 Low: $341.20-341.70 AM: $342.20 PM: $343.75

Krugerrand: $343.00-345.00 (£211.25-213.25)

Platinum: $376.50 (£232.25) **Silver:** $4.84 (£2.965) **Palladium:** $157.60 (£97.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1124-3.1376	3.1124-3.1158	¼-⅛pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Brussels	57.079-57.570	57.079-57.160	17-13pr	49-43pr
Copenhagen	10.529-10.619	10.528-10.538	¼-⅛pr	¼-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0706-1.0792	1.0706-1.0748	2ds-2pr	11-5pr
Frankfurt	2.7657-2.7887	2.7657-2.7688	¼-⅛pr	2½-2¼pr
Lisbon	278.26-280.22	278.26-278.50	¼-⅛pr	¼-⅛pr
Madrid	233.63-235.58	233.63-233.84	20-10pr	70-52pr
Milan	2736.3-2759.6	2736.3-2739.8	9-25ds	22-45ds
Montreal	2.2404-2.2512	2.2404-2.2425	0.620.56pr	1.19-1.10pr
New York	1.6202-1.6270	1.6202-1.6211	0.092-0.072	0.265-0.235pr
Oslo	11.475-11.557	11.475-11.485	¼-⅛pr	¼-⅛pr
Paris	9.3335-9.3990	9.3335-9.3424	2½-2¼pr	7¼-6¾pr
Stockholm	12.487-12.584	12.487-12.502	¼-⅛pr	¼-⅛pr
Tokyo	200.53-201.66	200.53-200.77	1-⅞pr	3-2¾pr
Vienna	19.465-19.632	19.465-19.497	¼-⅛pr	1½-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3363-2.3576	2.3363-2.3392	¼-⅛pr	2½-2¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

[illegible]

Australia	1.2838-1.2840
Austria	12.05-12.06
Belgium (Com)	35.34-35.38
Canada	1.3835-1.3840
Denmark	6.5228-6.5246
France	5.7725-5.7785
Germany	1.7131-1.7136
Hong Kong	7.7457-7.7467
Ireland	1.5095-1.5115
Italy	1695.90-1696.90
Japan	123.89-123.99
Malaysia	2.5072-2.5082
Netherlands	1.9270-1.9275
Norway	7.1026-7.1076
Portugal	172.23-172.28
Singapore	1.4440-1.4445
Spain	144.60-144.65
Sweden	7.7154-7.7204
Switzerland	1.4478-1.4488

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6188-1.6215
Australia dollar	2.0813-2.0833
Bahrain dinar	0.6065-0.6185
Brazil real*	1.7201-1.7245
China yuan	13.319-13.619
Cyprus pound	0.8255-0.8355
Finland markka	8.3450-8.4610
Greece drachma	439.25-446.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.5516-12.5571
India rupee	57.72-58.68
Indonesia rupiah	3913.0-3981.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4890-0.4990
Malaysia ringgit	4.0652-4.0685
New Zealand dollar	2.3681-2.3706
Pakistan rupee	65.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8553-5.9790
Singapore dollar	2.3409-2.3431
S Africa rand (com)	7.2250-7.3270
U A E dirham	5.9075-6.0315

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	959	Land Secs	1,900
ASDA Gp	13,500	Legal & Gn	4,100
Abbey Ntl	5,900	Lloyds TSB	13,700
Allied Dom	2,400	LucasVarity	2,800
AB Foods	188	Marks Spr	2,900
BAA	599	Mercury Asset	115
BAT Inds	3,200	NatWst Bk	5,500
BG	28,500	Nat Grid	6,600
BOC	291	Nat Power	1,700
BP	12,000	Next	673
BSkyB	3,400	Orange	1,400
BTR	225,700	P & O	905
BT	17,700	Pearson	1,900
Bk of Scot	6,200	PowerGen	944
Barclays	4,200	Prudential	2,800
Bass	1,100	RMC	344
Blue Circle	3,900	RTZ	1,100
Boots	1,300	Railtrack	2,900
BAe	1,300	Rank Group	5,000
BA	1,300	Reckitt Col	1,200
British Land	2,000	Reed Intl	2,500
Brit Steel	3,900	Rentokil Inl	2,100
Burmah Cstl	368	Reuters	3,000
Burton	2,400	Rolls Royce	3,500
Cable Wire	3,900	Royal & Sun	2,500
Cadbury	2,100	Royal Bk Sct	7,400
Carlton Cms	1,900	Safeway	12,600
Centrica	9,500	Sainsbury	5,600
Cm Union	1,700	Schroders	145
Dixons	1,600	Scot & New	1,100
EMI	931	Scot Power	3,800
Energy Gp	3,600	Svrn Trent	538
Enterpr Oil	2,600	Shell Trans	3,600
GKN	290	Siebe	1,200
GRE	2,200	SmKl Bch	2,600
GUS	1,300	Smith Nph	842
Gen Acc	1,300	Smiths Inds	3,500
Gen Elec	2,800	Std Chartd	4,400
Glaxo Well	3,500	TI Gp	863
Granada	1,800	Tate & Lyle	9,700
Grand Met	2,800	Tesco	4,200
Guinness	1,900	Thames W	210
HSBC	1,900	Tomkins	5,100
Hanson	2,700	Unilever	1,800
Hays	940	Utd Utilities	1,100
ICI	9,000	Utd News	1,900
Imp Tob	1,500	Vodafone	3,800
Kingfisher	2,200	Whitbread	672
LASMO	4,700	Wolseley	695
Ladbroke	4,100	Zeneca	995

[illegible]

	May 8 midday	May 7 close
AMP Inc	38½	38½
AMR Corp	94½	93
AT & T	32	32½
Abbott Labs	62½	62½
Advanced Micro	42½	43½
Aetna Life	97½	96½
[illegible]	39½	39½
Air Prod & Chem	75½	72½
AirTouch Comm	24½	24½
Albertson's	33½	33½
Alcan Aluminum	34½	34½
Allied Signal	74½	74½
Alum Co of Am	70½	70½
Amerada Hess	50½	50½
Amer Brands	54½	54½
Amer El Power	40½	40½
Amer Express	66	66
Amer Genl Corp	43½	43½
Amer Home Pr	70½	70½
Amer Intl	128½	130½
Amer Stores	46½	46½
Amer Standard	41½	41½
Ameritech	62	62½
Amoco	85½	83½
Andrew Corp	29	29
Anheuser-Busch	42½	42½
Apple Computer	16½	16½
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	3½	3½
Armstrong Wrld	65½	64½
Asarco	29½	29½
Atl Richfield	143	143½
Auto Data Pro	47½	47½
Avery Dennison	39	39½
Avon Products	60½	60½
Baker Hughes	35½	35½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26½
Banc One	42½	42½
BankAmerica	114½	114½
Bank of NY	39½	39½
Bankers Tr NY	84	81½
Barnett Banks	48½	49½
Bausch & Lomb	40½	40½
Baxter Intl	49½	48½
Becton Dickinsn	47½	47½
Bell Atlantic	68½	68½
Bell Industries	17½	17½
BellSouth	44½	44½
Black & Decker	34½	34½
Block (H&R)	31½	32½
Boeing	97½	97½
Boise Cascade	35½	35½
Boston Scien	57½	58½
Bristol Myrs Sq	66½	67½
Browning Ferris	30½	30½
Brunswick	29½	29½
Burlington Nthn	78½	78½
CMS Energy Corp	32½	32½
CNA Financial	99½	99½
CPC Intl	85½	85½
CSX	47½	47½
Campbell Soup	46½	46½
Can Pacific	26	26½
Carolina Pwr	34½	34½
Case Corp	55½	55½
Caterpillar	89½	89½
Central & SW	21½	21½
Champion Intl	47½	47½
Chase Manhat	96½	95½
Chevron Corp	69	69½
Chrysler	30½	30½
Chubb Corp	57½	57½
Cigna Corp	161½	160½
Citicorp	114	113½
Clorox	122½	123½
Coastal Corp	49½	48½
Coca Cola	64½	65½
Coca Cola Ent	59½	58½
Colgate-Palm	109½	110
Columbia Gas	64½	64½
Columbia/HCA	36½	36½
Compaq Comp	93½	92½
Comp Ass Intl	52	52½
Conagra	59	58½
Conrail	114½	115½
Cons Edison	29½	29½
Cons Nat Gas	51½	51½
Cooper Inds	48½	47½
Corestates	51½	51½
Corning Inc	49½	48½
Crown Cork	54½	54½
Dana Corp	34½	33½
Dayton Hudson	47½	47½
Deere	46	45½
Delta Air Lines	95½	94½
Deluxe Corp	31½	31½
Digital Equip	31½	30½
Dillard Dept St	30½	30½
Disney (Walt)	79½	80½
Dominion Res	35½	35½
Donnelley (RR)	34½	34½
Dover Corp	53½	53½
Dow Chemical	86½	87
Dow Jones	39½	39½
Dresser	37½	37
Duke Power	45½	45½
Dun & Bradstreet	25½	25½
Du Pont	106½	107
Eastman Chem	52½	52½
Eastman Kodak	80½	81½

	May 8 midday	May 7 close
Eaton Corp	78	78½
Edison Intl	21½	21½
Elect Data Sys	37	37
Emerson Elec	51½	52½
Engelhard Corp	20½	20½
Enron Corp	38½	38½
Entergy	24½	25
Ethyl Corp	9½	9½
Exxon	57½	57½
FMC Corp	66½	66½
FPL Group	45½	46
Federal Express	56½	[illegible]
First Bk Sys	75½	[illegible]
Fleet Finl Grp	61½	[illegible]
Fluor Corp	49½	[illegible]
Ford Motor	35½	[illegible]
GTE Corp	44	[illegible]
Gannett	90½	90½
Gap Inc Del	30½	30½
Gencorp	19½	19½
Gen Dynamics	72½	72½
Gen Electric	115½	115½
Gen Mills	62½	63½
Gen Motors	57	57½
[illegible]	168½	168½
Gen Signal	39½	39
Genuine Parts	33½	33½
Georgia Pac	78½	77½
Gillette	83½	84½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	39½	39½
Goodrich (BF)	41½	41½
Goodyear Tire	53½	53½
Gt Atl Pac Tea	25½	25½
Great Wstn Fin	43½	43½
Halliburton	71	70½
Harcourt General	45½	46½
Heinz (HJ)	42½	41½
Hercules	43½	43½
Hershey Foods	57	57½
Hewlett Packard	53	53½
Hilton Hotels	26½	26
Home Depot	57½	59½
Homestake Mng	14½	14½
Honeywell	74½	74½
Household Intl	89½	87½
Houston Inds	22½	22½
Humana	21½	21½
ITT Corp	59½	59½
Ikon Office	20	20½
Illinois Tool	[illegible]	[illegible]
Illinova	23	22½
INCO	32½	32½
Ingersoll Rand	50½	50½
Inland Steel	24	24½
Intel Corp	157½	153½
IBM	165½	162½
Intl Flav & Fr	42½	42½
Intl Paper	44	44½
James River Va	34½	34½
Johnsn & Jhnsn	59½	60½
Kellogg	70½	70½
Kerr-McGee	62½	62
KimberlyClark	52½	52½
Kmart	13½	13½
Knight-Ridder	40½	39½
Lilly (Eli)	87½	87½
Limited Inc	18½	18½
Lincoln Nat	57½	57½
Litton	43½	43½
Liz Claiborne	44½	45½
Lockheed Martin	91½	91½
Louisiana Pac	19½	19½
MCI Comm	37½	38½
Manpower Inc	42½	40½
Marriott Intl	55½	54½
Marsh & McLen	120½	120
Masco Corp	38½	38½
May Dept St	45½	45½
Maytag Corp	22½	22½
McDonalds	53½	53½
McDonnell D	57½	57½
McGraw Hill	52½	52½
Mead Corp	52½	53½
Medtronic	66½	66½
Mellon Bk	82½	82½
Merck Inc	89½	89½
Merrill Lynch	96½	97½
Microsoft	116½	118½
Minnesota Mine	90	89½
Mobil Corp	134½	132
Monsanto	44	44
Morgan (JP)	101½	100½
Motorola Inc	61½	61½
Natl Semi	29½	29½
Natl Service Ind	42½	42½
Navistar Int	12	11½
NY Times A	44	44½
Newmont Mng	39½	38½
Niag Mohawk	8½	8½
Nike B	59½	59½
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	15½	15
Nordstrom	41½	41
Norfolk Sthrn	92	91½
Nthn States Pwr	46	46½
Norwest Corp	50½	50½
Nynex Corp	52½	52½
Occidental Pet	22½	22½
Ohio Edison	20½	20½
Oracle	42½	43

	May 8 midday	May 7 close
Oryx Energy Co	20½	20½
Owens Corning	41½	41½
PHH Corp	48½	48½
PPG Industries	58½	58½
PNC Bank	40½	42½
PP&L Res	20½	20½
Paccar Inc	79½	79½
PacifiCorp	19½	20½
Pac Enterprises	33½	33½
Pall Corp	23½	23½
Parker Hannifin	51½	50½
Pecn Energy	20½	20½
Penney (JC)	49	49½
Pennzoil	51½	51½
Pepsico	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pfizer	98½	99½
Pharm & Upjohn	37½	37½
Phelps Dodge	77½	77½
Philip Morris	41½	41½
Phillips Pet	40½	40½
Pitney Bowes	66½	66½
Polaroid	47½	48
Procter & Gambl	129½	130½
Providian	56½	56½
Pub Serv E&G	25½	25½
Quaker Oats	40½	40½
Ralston Purina	82½	82½
Raychem	87½	87½
Raytheon	46½	46½
Reebok	37½	37½
Reynolds Metals	69½	69½
Rockwell Intl	65½	66½
Rohm & Haas	82½	82½
Royal Dutch	181½	181½
Rubbermaid	25½	25½
SBC Comms	55½	55½
Safeco	41½	41
St Paul	71½	71½
Salomon	52½	52½
Sara Lee	41½	42½
Schering Plough	81½	81½
Schlumberger	111	109½
Seagram	39½	38½
Sears Roebuck	49½	48½
Shell Trans	109½	109½
Sherwin Wms	31½	31½
Skyline	27½	27½
Snap-on	38½	38½
Southern Co	21	21½
Sprint	45½	45½
Stanley Works	38½	38½
Sun Company	28½	28½
Sun Microsys	30½	30½
Sundstrand	52½	52½
Supervalu	30½	30½
Sysco	34	33½
TRW Inc	52½	52½
[illegible]	1½	2
TCG Hldgs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tandem Comp	12½	12½
Tandy Corp	52½	52½
Temple Inland	55½	55½
Tenneco	42½	42½
Texaco	107½	107½
Texas Inst	89½	89½
Texas Utilities	36½	35½
Textron	113½	113½
Thermo Elect	35	35½
Time Warner	44	44
Times Mirror	54½	54½
Timken	59½	59½
Torchmark	60½	60½
Toys R Us	29½	29½
Transamerica	84½	84½
Tribune	41½	41½
Tyco	54½	54½
UST Inc	27½	27½
UAL	73½	73½
US Bancorp	35½	35½
US West Comm	34½	34½
US West Media	17½	17½
USAirways Group	31½	31½
USX Marathon	27½	27½
Unicom	23½	23½
Unilever NV	197½	198½
Union Camp	49	49
Union Carbide	46½	46½
Union Pacific	60½	60½
Unisys	6½	6½
USF&G Corp	19½	19½
US Life	48½	48
United Tech	77½	77½
Unocal Corp	38½	38½
VF Corp	74½	74½
WMX Tech	31½	30½
Wal-Mart Stores	28½	28½
Warner-Lambert	99½	99½
Wells Fargo	265½	267½
Westinghouse El	16½	16½
Weyerhaeuser	46½	45
Whirlpool	48	48½
Williams	23½	23½
Winn Dixie	35½	36
Woolworth	20½	20½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	59½	59½
Xerox	65½	64½
Zenith Elect	11½	11½

Terror of the 'Tartan tax' dampens the joy of devolution for Scottish business

In the early hours of last Friday morning, the ashen faces of former Conservative Ministers Ian Lang, Michael Forsyth and Malcolm Rifkind contrasted with the pure joy shown by Scottish nationalists shouting: "Our country will be free." But before the last cocktail of whisky and Irn Bru was drained, Labour was at work drafting the devolution Bill that will, it hopes, give Scots enough power to pacify them without putting the fear of God into the business community.

The details will come out directly after the Queen's Speech next week — ahead of a Scottish referendum expected in September. The routing of the Scottish Conservatives — standing on a preserve the union ticket — shows a groundswell of support for a separate parliament for the first time since 1707. The business community cannot ignore it. Some staunch supporters of the union — such as Lord Weir of the Glasgow engineer Weir Group — have attacked the whole concept as a potential source of "aggro" between London and Edinburgh. "The idea of a glorified city council sitting in Edinburgh is ghastly," was his reaction. At the same time others, such as Liam Kane, chief executive of Mirror Group's Scottish operations, have pinned their colours proudly to the mast of devolution.

However, despite warnings by Ian Lang during the election that devolution would scare off investment in Scotland, most Scottish business leaders are fairly sanguine. Their big concern, though, is the "Tartan tax". They are wary of how much tax-raising power the Scottish parliament might have.

Tony Blair's supposed gaffe — when he compared a Scottish parliament's tax-raising powers to an "English parish council" — have not settled the nerves. Scottish & Newcastle, the leisure and brewing group whose headquarters stand in the shadow of the proposed Scottish parliament building, is one of the few willing to articulate the concerns that many business leaders voice in private, but are loath to utter publicly for fear of alienating the Government and their workforce. Brian Stewart, S&N chief executive, says that if Scotland has a higher personal tax rate than the UK this could hit future investment north of the border. He is concerned about tax not only cutting the amount of disposal income available to spend in Scotland but also putting up employment costs — and S&N employs 4,000 in Scotland. "Managers whom we would hope to be attracting to come and work for us or relocate from England to Scotland might be put off by higher taxes. If in general the tax-raising powers increase the cost base, that would have a negative effect on investment."

David MacKay, chief executive of John Menzies, also thinks that increased taxes might cause problems. "I think there are worries about devolution. Especially if it is accompanied by tax which would disadvantage many employers in Scotland."

One tax Menzies is particularly concerned about is business rates. Labour has said it might give the power to set business rate levels back to local councils, raising the prospect of a return to the situation in the mid-1980s when it was more expensive to occupy shops in Princes Street, Edinburgh, than in Oxford Street, London.

A great deal has to do with the level of tax increase. "A penny on income tax is neither here nor there," said one Scottish financier. "Three pence might be different or an extra 10p on top rates."

The so-called Charlotte Square mafia — the community of life assurers headquartered in Edinburgh — lobbied aggressively in the run-up to the election to minimise the powers of a Scottish assembly, although the Labour Party claimed the support of both Scottish Widows and Standard Life for its devolution proposals. Tom King, corporate affairs director at Standard Life, admits the group has had a programme of wining and dining Scottish Labour MPs in an attempt to make them understand what the life companies would be prepared to live with. He points out that Alastair Darling, the Chief Secretary at the Treasury, is MP for the constituency that includes Charlotte Square, and with it about 90 per cent of the Scottish financial services industry.

The Scottish finanical community appears to be reassured that the Scottish parliament will not have power to raise corporate tax rates or regulate Scottish business differently from Westminster. "Nothing should be done that affects the Scottish financial community's ability to compete in England," said Mr King.

The banking community is similarly relaxed. "Our regulator will still be the Bank of England," said Peter Woodifield, of the Royal Bank of Scotland. "Well, if it remains the Bank of England. At least it will be the same regulator as the London-based banks."

Labour appears to have won over the financial community. The battle will be to win over the rest of the business community, some of whom think they are the effective opposition in Scotland now that Scottish Tories have been routed.

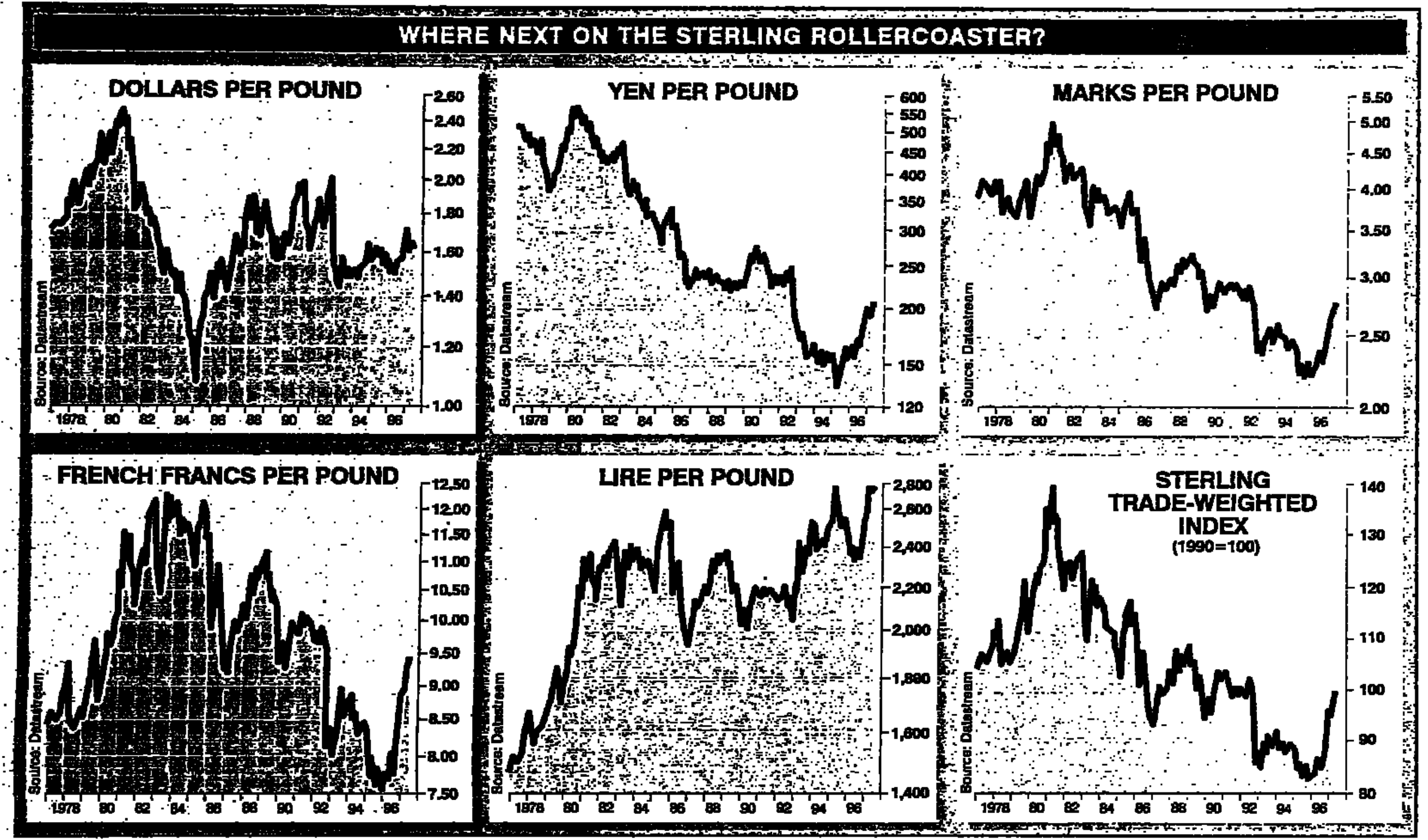
JASON NISSÉ

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Second thoughts on independent Bank

Brown's move may have the opposite effect to the one he intended



WHERE NEXT ON THE STERLING ROLLERCOASTER?

Sometimes an event comes so suddenly and is so far-reaching in its implications, that even experienced journalists, whose job it is to think fast and express themselves succinctly, do not have the time or the space to get anywhere near the truth. I have to admit to such a professional lapse last Tuesday, when Gordon Brown announced his decision to make the Bank of England independent. To readers who were shocked by my attack on Mr Brown's decision, I wish to apologise: my harsh words were not nearly harsh enough.

By concentrating on the theoretical objections to the principle of central bank independence, I glossed over the more important practical issues which could unleash the financial nemesis discussed in this column last week. Specifically, I misunderstood the effect this decision could have on the pound.

Specifically, central bank independence is more likely to drive the currency up than down. By doing this, it could disrupt completely economic plans of the new Government — not least by breaking up the strange consensus which has formed in the business community in favour of higher tax. And once the economy has suffered beyond repair from the damage done by an overvalued pound and an overly tight monetary policy, the sterling bubble will, of course, burst proving yet again the iron law of left-wing politics in Britain: all Labour governments are brought down by financial crises the seeds of which they sow during their first days of power.

Let us start from the premise discussed on this page last week: that Britain's biggest economic problem today is the malignant hardness of the pound. The high exchange rate is slowly but surely driving out of business the few manufacturers and exporters that escaped from the two dreadful currency squeezes of 1979-81 and 1990-92. The key question now is whether Bank independence will make it easier or harder to manage the transition to a competitive exchange rate in a non-inflationary and non-disruptive way. The conventional wisdom screams: "Of course it will — the independent Bank will boost international confidence in Britain and guarantee low inflation."

What nobody stops to ask is whether a boost to international confidence is what Britain now needs. It certainly seems a strange prescription for a country whose gravest economic problem is an inflow of hot money from Japanese bond investors and US currency speculators seeking high yields. There are times when financial credibility can do more harm than good. A country whose currency is being driven up in a speculative boom-bust cycle needs rather less confidence, not more. If that sounds ridiculous, remember what happened to Japan in 1995, Germany since 1992 and America in the mid-1980s. Or closer to home, reflect on the wreckage left behind by the orgy of overenthusaism for British assets during the 1979-81 Thatcher recession and again in the 1987-88 Lawson boom.

The Labour Government, to its credit, understands the potential problem. It wants the pound to weaken and is even prepared to say so more or less openly, as evidenced by the brilliantly timed leak which knocked sterling down 3 per cent in less than an hour on Wednesday night. Whatever may be said about Mr Brown and his lieutenants they are not stupid. The question remains whether they can get the markets to do what they want and push sterling back to a more competitive level by clever manipulation alone. Experience suggests they will fail. Many other clever governments have tried to influence exchange rates by words alone. Few have succeeded until they have backed their words with significant changes in economic policy.

The chances are, therefore, that Mr Brown will not reverse the upward trend in the pound simply by saying that he wants the pound to fall. There will have to be a significant policy change. Again, Mr Brown's people have foreseen the problem — or think they have. They view central bank independence as only one step in a two-stage strategy for rebalancing the economy. The second step will be a tough Budget which will raise taxes, reduce the public sector borrowing requirement, dampen consumer demand and inflation and thereby relieve the upward pressure on interest rates.

Lower interest rates, in turn, will push the pound downwards, make manufacturing industry more competitive and restore the jobs lost through higher taxes. It sounds like a textbook prescription for a carefully-controlled currency depreciation Indeed it is exactly the kind of policy urged on the new Government in this column a week ago. Why, then, do I suddenly suspect it will not work?

This is where we come back to Tuesday's fateful decision on the Bank of England. The most critical element of this whole policy package is the willingness to ease interest rates aggressively enough to pull the pound down. Without the critical ingredient of looser monetary policy the whole prescription will not work. In fact, it will probably achieve opposite of the result intended.

If investors are confident that monetary policy will be eased promptly in response to higher taxes, they can probably be relied on to sell sterling. But if interest rates remain high or rise further after a tight Budget, the short-term reaction of international investors could be to buy more pounds. Britain already has the highest interest rates among G7 countries. That has made UK government bonds one of the world's best investments in the past 12 months. Now Mr Brown has offered investors the anti-inflationary reassurance of an independent central bank. Next month he will follow that with a Budget that puts Britain on course to repay the national debt. Why should that suddenly persuade them to dump the high-yielding gilts and sterling deposits that have served them so well in the past year? The only possible reason would be the certain knowledge that interest rates will be deliberately managed to depreciate the pound.

Until Tuesday, there would have been ample reason for this view, since the Chancellor, who is known to favour a lower exchange rate, was directly in control of interest rates. Now that the Bank is in charge, the whole calculation is thrown into doubt. It is true that Eddie George said on Tuesday that sterling is "uncomfortably strong". The reason he gave, however, had nothing to do with the travails of manufacturing industry or the need to sustain economic growth after a tight Budget. "We have talked repeatedly about the dilemmas (the strong pound) poses for monetary policy," he said.

Could it be that Mr George's main reason for unhappiness about the present exchange rate is simply that the strong pound has prevented him from raising interest rates even higher? If this is true, then the Bank could seize on any fall in the pound as a pretext to raise interest rates. And if that is what markets starts to suspect, then the pound is not likely to move down at all — at least until it wreaks such havoc in British industry and the balance of payments that the speculative bubble bursts.

Nobody outside the Bank knows the answer to this question. But judging by the record of other central banks, anyone who expects Mr George to inaugurate the new era of independence by pursuing a policy of deliberate depreciation could be in for a disappointment. At the very least, the Bank is likely to wait for tangible signs of slowing activity and weakening consumer demand before it pulls the rug from under sterling. By that time, sterling may be higher than it is today, causing irreversible industrial damage — and preparing the ground for a traditional sterling crisis once the bubble is burst.

And if the Bank does not play the part assigned to it in Mr Brown's elaborate financial masque, why should anyone else? Why should Japanese investors stop buying sterling bonds after a tight Budget makes them even more attractive? Why should the industrial lobbies support high taxes when the Chancellor can no longer guarantee any payoff in terms of a more competitive pound? And why, for that matter, should voters suffer in silence as Tony Blair tears up his promises on tax for no obvious economic benefit? At least the last question has a clear answer: Mr Blair's majority is 179.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Regan detected Co-op weakness

From Mr Henry Pitman

Sir, Your newspaper has been swift to join the City institutions in distancing yourself from Andrew Regan, despite your previous enthusiasm for his David versus Goliath audacity.

While some of his actions cannot be sanctioned, it should not be ignored that he spotted an opportunity that other, better-financed entrepreneurs had not and seemed to have found a way of unlocking it.

More importantly, Regan highlighted a badly run, unfocused, faded conglomerate run by sanctimonious men whose purported ideals are certainly not in the best interests of their staff and members.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PITMAN,
50/60 Berners Street,
W1.

Peril of choosing to remain in the dark

From Mr J. Humphrey

Sir, Miss Delia Twamley (Business Letters, April 29) remarks with surprise on how easy it is to fill in the new tax return, adding "and I have not read the accompanying guide".

May one express concern lest, waking one night with something which needs attention, this lady were to go to her shelves without switching on the light and, in the dark, to help herself to the bottles there regardless of the perils of not seeing them.

Yours faithfully,
MR J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing,
West Sussex.

TRUST ME

goodwill *n.* 1 document in which you are left something of value 2 what you should extend to others when this occurs 3 the good reputation of a business and its contacts with its customers.

partnership *n.* 1 seagoing accommodation for lawyers, accountants etc. 2 unregistered business where two or more people share the risks and profits equally.

joint venture *n.* 1 trip inspired by illegal substance (orig. *sixties*) 2 annual orthopaedic holiday 3 business planned by two or more persons, companies etc.

bond *n.* 1 attach fingers together with superglue 2 agent with liking for dry martinis (*shaken, not stirred*) 3 contract document promising to repay money.

flotation *n.* 1 launching of a commercial enterprise on the Stock Exchange 2 life belt or similar device required if enterprise sinks.

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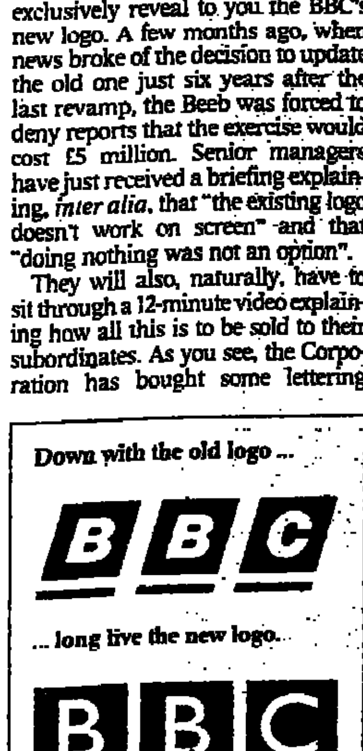
Sans of time

AS IF to prove that the world has now gone quite mad and that the role of the satirist is redundant, I can exclusively reveal to you the BBC's new logo. A few months ago, when news broke of the decision to update the old one just six years after the last revamp, the Beeb was forced to deny reports that the exercise would cost £5 million. Senior managers have just received a briefing explaining, *inter alia*, that "the existing logo doesn't work on screen" and that "doing nothing was not an option".

They will also, naturally, have to sit through a 12-minute video explaining how all this is to be sold to their subordinates. As you see, the Corporation has bought some lettering from the Early Learning Centre or, perhaps, merely hit the old logo with a hammer until it stood upright. The design uses a typeface designed by the artist Eric Gill, whose work already graces Broadcasting House, so the BBC has, so to speak, kept it all within the family. I am sure Gill would have approved.


Down with the old logo ...
BBC
... long live the new logo.
BBC

● *OF WHOM do I speak? "He has a long history of innovation in consumer applications for tried and tested technology." Sir Clive Sinclair? Alan Sugar, perhaps? The quote comes from Dr Chris Evans, himself no slouch at the application of technology. His company Toad did a deal yesterday with the Unique Group, and he was referring to its proprietor — Noel Edmunds, the innovatory genius who brought you Crinkley Bottom, the Gunge Bath and Mr Blobby.*

K factor

AS WE continue to find honest work for those unsettled by last week's landslide, a name emerges as a front-runner to head a new all-embracing City watchdog. Step forward Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The reasoning goes thus: if Gavyn Davies (or virtually anyone else other than H. Davies) is appointed as the second deputy governor in charge of economic and monetary affairs, the prospect of being left merely policing UK banks is none too appealing. And then there is the potential for embarrassing confusion over names. Far better a high-profile and challenging task like the much-needed reform of City regulation? Just a thought, Howard. There must be a K in it for you.

● *ANOTHER day, another profits warning from another blue chip company. BTR shares lost 13 per cent of their value yesterday, following Dalgety on Wednesday down the water slide. Biggest holder of Dalgety, as we pointed out, was our favourite long-term investor, PDFM. Biggest investor in BTR? Er, PDFM again.*

Hot air

DELEGATES in Harrogate for the two-day National Association of Pension Funds conference yesterday worked themselves into such a fury over what Gordon Brown may or may not do to them that the fire alarms went off and the hotel had to be evacuated.

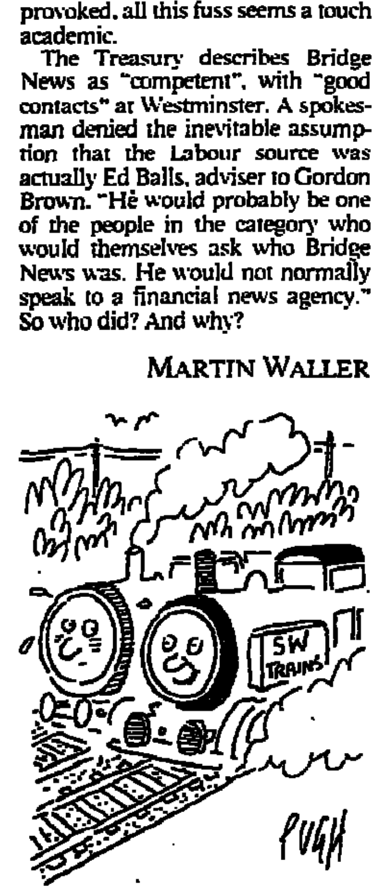
Party line

THE news that Britain was going to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism was so ludicrous — Labour within a week of the election to repeat the mistake that lost it for the Tories? — that I immediately wondered if someone in a bit of a hole on the currency markets and friends working on the newswires might be trying to get out of it.

The report was sourced by Reuters to something called Bridge News, which turns out to be the old Knight Ridder news agency. Chris Davison, the writer, stands by the story, saying he did talk to a "Labour economic source" on Wednesday night, who actually said, as his report made clear, that entry at DM2.50 might be "attractive". As the pound currently stands at DM 2.77 even after the falls the report provoked, all this fuss seems a touch academic.

The Treasury describes Bridge News as "competent", with "good contacts" at Westminster. A spokesman denied the inevitable assumption that the Labour source was actually Ed Balls, adviser to Gordon Brown. "He would probably be one of the people in the category who would themselves ask who Bridge News was. He would not normally speak to a financial news agency." So who did? And why?

MARTIN WALLER



"What's the hurry?" said Thomas. "It doesn't matter if we're late"

Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
455	407½	Allied Domecq	436½	-½	6.8	13.2
556	535	Bulmer (HP)	535	-1	3.2	15.9
75½	57	Burn Stewart	59		3.5	14.7
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	912½	-2½	1.7	24.8
520	425½	Grand Met	519½	-2½	3.8	16.8
531	424	Guinness†	521½	+7½	3.9	14.9
380	321½	Highland Distl	334		3.2	15.2
326	257	Matthew Clark	271	-5½	11.1	12.9
195½	30½	Unwood W	30½		6.4	12.2
1978½	1562½	SA Breweries	1829½	-9½	1.9	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706½	3621½	ABN-AMRO	4387½	+71½	2.6	18.1
886½	710	Abbey Natl	884½	+36	3.7	15.7
626½	532½	Alliance & Leic	626½	+41	3.3	15.4
455	388½	Allied Irish	442	-3½	4.0	
402½	363½	Aus New Z	400	-3½	4.7	
7678½	5753½	Bank America	7087½	-168½		
411½	291½	Bank Scotland†	410	-14	2.6	12.7
1326	978½	Barclays	1309	-10	3.3	12.2
652	517½	Bk of Ireland	657½	-2	3.2	14.9
7990½	6006½	Citicorp	7018½	-121½	2.5	
1731½	1268½	Commerzbank	1716½	+21½	0.6	
862½	559½	Christiania Bk	731½	+16½	2.0	
3490½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3325	+40½	3.3	
1021½	759½	Espirito Santo	1021½	+9½	0.6	
912	594½	Fuji Bank Y	742½	-11		
1795	1277½	HSBC	1795	-91	2.9	15.6
1725½	1231	HSBC HK	1725½	+99	3.0	14.9
605	483½	Irish Perm	575		2.8	
602	424	Lloyds TSB	602½	-24½	2.7	19.5
869	669½	Nat Aust Bk	869	+8½	4.8	11.5
942½	663½	Nat West	785	-21½	4.6	11.8
632½	508	Royal Bk Scot	602½	-17½	4.1	12.8
980½	681	Stand Chartt	980½	-33½	1.8	17.6
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
373½	315½	Westpac	349	-5½	4.5	

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CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

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ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

LEISURE & HOTELS

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MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

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RETAILERS, GENERAL

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

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McAlpine looks at sales to offset Raine bid cost

By Martin Barrow

ALFRED McALPINE has identified disposals that could raise up to £25 million against the £44.3 million cost of its agreed takeover bid for Raine, the fellow housebuilder and construction company.

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive of McAlpine, said the disposals were likely to cover housing and investments in California, residential land in Majorca and some peripheral UK property interests. These were valued at £30 million in Raine's last accounts.

The takeover of Raine, signalled in mid-April, propels McAlpine into the top ten of the UK's biggest housebuilders with a combined output of 3,500 housing completions a year. Mr Whitehead said: "It's a fair price and I would expect the acquisition to produce some earnings enhancement in its first full year of ownership.

"The integration of Raine's Hassell Homes subsidiary with McAlpine's residential housing division will give us a bigger slice of the UK market and put us into areas where we have not previously been represented." These comprise Cumbria, Northumbria and Yorkshire. In the three overlapping areas of the Midlands, the North West and South West of England, McAlpine plans to close three regional offices, which will result in a "significant" reduction in central overheads and operating costs.

Sir Terence Harrison, the chairman, said: "We are convinced the combination of the two groups offers an exceptional opportunity to create a major player in the housebuilding and construction sectors for the benefit of all the shareholders in the enlarged group."

McAlpine's all-share offer of 23.57p a share represents a premium of 34.7 per cent over Raine's share price immediately before the announcement that the pair were in bid talks on April 18. Yesterday Raine shares rose 2p to 20p. McAlpine fell 13p to 154p. McAlpine is also calling on shareholders for £29.7 million through a two-for-seven convertible rights issue at an equivalent price of 142p a share. It will be used to reduce borrowing of the enlarged group.

Lonrho sells Swaziland sugar stake for £227m

By Adam Jones

LONRHO'S break-up programme marched on yesterday with the sale of its 94.25 per cent stake in Lonrho Sugar Corporation, based in Swaziland, for 1.653 billion rand (£227 million).

The sale to Illovo Sugars of South Africa creates Africa's largest sugar group. The extra strain placed on the currency markets by the deal pushed the rand to its weakest levels against the dollar in two months.

The deal was widely expected as part of Lonrho's drive to get rid of its peripheral businesses and release value to shareholders, who have seen the sprawling conglomerate's share price halve from its peak of more than 300p in the Eighties.

The strategy had been initiated by Dieter Bock, the former chief executive, who cut the last of his links with the company in March.

Nicholas Morrell, the new chief executive, said: "The disposal of our shareholding in Lonrho Sugar Corporation represents a further important step in realising the inherent value of Lonrho's businesses, and in reducing group debt."

A demerger, as opposed to outright sale, had been considered for Lonrho Sugar Corp but it would not have met the Inland Revenue's criteria for tax exemption.

Lonrho Sugar owns, operates and manages sugar cane plantations in South Africa, Mauritius, Malawi and Swaziland. Its shares, listed in Johannesburg and Swaziland, had moved up from 12.6 rand to R16.2 in anticipation of the sale. The company made a profit before tax equal to £27.8 million in the year ended March 1996.

The sale prices the shares at R13.9 each and the full issued share capital at R1.723 billion.

Illovo, which has a 44 per cent share in the domestic market, recorded sales of R974 million for the half-year to the end of March.

Illovo is funding about two thirds of the purchase through an underwritten share issue. The rest will come from cash and the issue of new preference shares. It said that merger benefits of at least R28 million a year have been identified and earnings would increase from September next year. Anglo American and Tate & Lyle had been tipped as potential bidders.

Lonrho has assurances from CG Smith Foods, owner of 69 per cent of Illovo, that it will vote through the purchase at an extraordinary general meeting.

All Lonrho Sugar shareholders will be entitled to receive a final dividend of R0.25 per share as part of the deal, in respect of annual results that are due to be announced soon.

Tempus, page 28

Northern Rock chief dies

By Anne Ashworth

CHRISTOPHER SHARP, managing director of the Northern Rock Building Society, died suddenly yesterday morning, aged 57. He had suffered a heart attack.

The Northern Rock, the seventh largest society, will become a bank in October in a £1.2 billion stock market flotation. The society confirmed yesterday that these plans remained unchanged.

Leo Finn, the society's deputy managing director, who takes over from Mr Sharp said: "It is Chris's greatest desire that Northern Rock complete its conversion to plc status on schedule and to plan, and so remain a vibrant, independent force, based in the North East. This is precisely what will now take place."

Mr Sharp's association with the Northern Rock began in 1970 when he joined the society as its in-house lawyer. He became chief executive in 1982 and managing director in 1985. A graduate of Pembroke College, Oxford, he had previously pursued a career in law.

During Mr Sharp's time at the top, the Northern Rock has seen considerable expansion. Last year, it took 10 per cent of the market in new loans. It gained second place in the UBS Major Players league which rates the larger building societies on a number of performance criteria.

Bill Simpson, with samples of wood finishes, expects improvement in the cabinets division

Silentnight boosted by consumer recovery

By Adam Jones

THE consumer recovery helped to push annual pre-tax profits up to £14.3 million (£11.1 million) at Silentnight, the bed and cabinet maker.

Turnover for the 12 months to February 1 rose 12 per cent to £212 million as customers drifted back to high street showrooms and cabinet raw material costs eased.

Sales at the UK beds division rose 12 per cent to £113.5 million and operating profit rose 49 per cent to £3.3 million.

The cabinets division recorded sales of £59 million (£54 million). Its margins were hit in 1995 by rises in the cost of MDF, its main raw material.

In America, where Silentnight trades under the Serta brand, turnover increased 37 per cent to £24.6 million. The company has factories in Boston and Pittsburgh and believes there are efficiencies still to be made, particularly in Pittsburgh. It is also looking at possible US acquisitions, although nothing is imminent.

Germany, where consumers have been squeezed by the fiscal restraints required for economic and monetary union in Europe, proved to be the toughest market and profits only held steady.

Bill Simpson, chief executive, said the group's early targets for 1997 were being achieved, with improvements particularly expected for the cabinets arm. Overall growth, however, is expected to be slower than in 1996.

A final dividend of 7p (5.25p) is due on July 7, making a total of 10p (8p).

Hongkong Telecom lifts profits 12.5%

From A Correspondent in Hong Kong

Hong Kong Telecommunications achieved a 12.5 per cent rise in net profits to HK$11.18 billion (£890 million) in the year to March 31, but analysts questioned its long-term prospects in an increasingly competitive cellular phone market.

"Results like this are too good to be luck," said Dick Brown, deputy chief executive of Hongkong Telecom and chief executive of Britain's Cable and Wireless, which holds 58.5 per cent of it.

Linus Cheung, Hongkong Telecom's chief executive, said that it was rebalancing its portfolio of services, and lessening reliance on international direct dial (IDD) revenue. He said that IDD revenue is now 53 per cent of total revenue, down from more than 60 per cent two years ago, but declined to disclose the utility's share of the IDD market.

The utility faces rising competition for international calls from callback operators, in spite of a theoretical monopoly: until 2006, rivals must route their international traffic through Hongkong Telecom.

Hongkong Telecom declined to comment on speculation that it may take a partner from mainland China.

Football suing over illicit TV broadcasts

By Jason Nisse

FOOTBALL is taking High Court action to stop pubs and clubs, largely in the North of England, illegally showing live Premiership matches.

Writs have been issued against about a dozen distributors of equipment that can pick up signals from TV2, which has the contract to show FA Carling Premiership games live in Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

Many pubs have bought the satellite equipment and have been showing live football coverage without paying BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. BSkyB charges pubs by the size of audience they attract, generating around £30 million of income a year.

The Premiership is particularly unhappy about the showing of Saturday games, which are not shown live on British TV. Under the deal with TV2 live Saturday games are shown during the winter football break in Scandinavian.

Ian Fletcher, chairman of D&C Satellite and Television in Cheshire, one of the groups being sued, said: "It is no offence to sell equipment that can pick up these signals."

Hundreds queue at the bank — to own it

From Rachel Bridge
in Sydney

COLONIAL State Bank has received hundreds of applications from people keen to own their own bank since it unveiled plans to franchise out 60 branches six weeks ago.

Peter Smedley, managing director of Colonial, the life assurance group that owns the bank, said they had received more than 850 applications from potentia. franchisees within the first two days of making the announcement, and that many more applications had continued to arrive since then.

Under the scheme, which is believed to be the first true banking franchise in the world, franchisees must pay an upfront fee of A$60,000 (£30,000) for the right to run a branch for five years and an additional A$45,000 to meet the cost of training staff. They must also lodge a refundable A$200,000 security deposit with the bank.

In return they will be able to offer customers Colonial State Bank's range of financial services including insurance, investment and funds management as well as traditional banking products, and will earn between A$80,000 and A$200,000 a year based on their ability to achieve certain performance criteria.

Mr Smedley said people applying to become franchisees included retailers, accountants, financial planners and Colonial's own staff. Priority would be given to the bank's existing employees.

The franchise plan represents a significant shift in focus for Colonial State bank, which is set to close about 200 of its 300 traditional branches in Australia over the next few months, in order to replace them with franchised outlets. Stuart James, Colonial State Bank's managing director, has said that the bank will retain responsibility for maintaining credit standards and approving loans. Colonial will continue to be the financial product manufacturer and the quality controller, with distribution in the hands of "highly motivated small-business people," he said.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Oxford seeks £30m for acquisitions

OXFORD MOLECULAR is raising £30.4 million through a rights issue to fund the acquisitions of two computer software businesses in America and to provide working capital. Oxford, which supplies drug design software and contract research services, also unveiled a collaborative agreement with Astra, the Swedish pharmaceutcals company, to develop desktop software for research scientists. Oxford is paying an initial $22.5 million cash for Genetics Computer Group and the software arm of MLR Automation. A further profit-related sum of up to $1.5 million may become due.

The pact with Astra will last a year and will aim to develop an integrated suite of software tools that can be used to define, store, retrieve and analyse data. Oxford reported 1996 pre-tax losses of £1.85 million (£3.7 million) on sales of £9.79 million (£6.2 million). Losses were 3.3p a share (7.2p loss). Again there is no dividend. The underwritten rights issue is on a one-for-seven basis at 360p a share. Existing shares fell 1p to 407½p.

Mirror Group positive

MIRROR GROUP, the newspaper group that publishes *The Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*, said that it had made a "positive" start to 1997. Sir Robert Clark, chairman, speaking at the company's annual meeting, said he was confident that the rest of the year would turn out to be "satisfactory". On current trading, Sir Robert said that advertising revenue is picking up again after a quiet period before the general election, and the outlook for the remainder of the year was "encouraging". The shares rose 3½p to 213½p.

Employment worries

MANY small companies are still finding employment regulations a major problem, according to a legal helpline. About 43 per cent of the 17,000 queries handled by the Federation of Small Businesses legal assistance helpline in the first quarter were over employment matters. Bill Knox, the FSB's employment affairs chairman, said the results showed employers were finding it tough in the aftermath of a recession. Queries about the working time directive, health and safety regulations and statutory sick pay also featured heavily.

Cadbury's solid start

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the confectionery and soft drinks group, has made a solid start to 1997, Dominic Cadbury, chairman, said at the annual meeting yesterday. But he also gave warning that the strong pound would have "an adverse impact" on this year's results. The group completed the sale of its 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola-Schweppes Bottlers to Coca-Cola in February for £623 million. It also bought Bim Bim, Egypt's leading confectionery company for an undisclosed sum. The shares rose 7p to 529p.

Promotion for Tague

STOREHOUSE, the retail group, has appointed Stephen Tague, stores operations director as Bhs, as managing director of the chain. Mr Tague, 42, joined Bhs in January 1994. He previously worked for Debenhams and Allders. He will be responsible for Bhs UK operations, one of the jobs previously done by Keith Edelman, the chief executive of Storehouse who remains executive chairman of Bhs. Mr Edelman said: "Stephen will play a key operational role, enabling me to concentrate on longer term strategic issues."

US deal for VAH

VISUAL ACTION HOLDINGS has agreed to sell its film services division to Panavision, the US designer and manufacturer of film camera systems, for £38 million. The division, which earned £3.95 million before tax in 1996, hires out film cameras and associated equipment for the production of commercials, TV drama and films. VAH will invest the proceeds in continuing businesses, comprising the hire of audio-visual equipment for corporate presentations and product launches, and broadcast video.

Irish inflation subdued

INFLATION in the Republic of Ireland remained subdued in April with only a 0.1 per cent rise over the previous month, according to the Central Statistics Office. Over 11 months from May last year the consumer price index rose 1.4 per cent, down slightly on the previous 11-month period. Meanwhile, the First National Building Society yesterday became the latest institution to increase its interest rates by half a percentage point after last week's interest rate rise by the Irish Central Bank.

BHP to raise A$636m

THE Broken Hill Pty Co (BHP), Australia's largest company, is raising up to A$636 million (£318 million) from a non-renounceable issue of ordinary shares. The share issue will provide eligible shareholders with the opportunity to purchase additional small parcels of shares up to a maximum value of A$2,400 per shareholder. The issue follows BHP's decision last year to halve the company's dividend reinvestment and bonus share schemes. BHP has the largest market capitalisation on the Australian stock exchange of A$35.43 billion.

Rentokil disposal

RENTOKIL INITIAL, the business services company, is selling the large cranes of Grayston White and Sparrow, a former BET subsidiary, to Sarens of Belgium for £8 million, it was announced yesterday. The agreement includes the sale of four large cranes and the transfer of 25 operating personnel. The business has a turnover of £4 million and net tangible assets of £6 million. The disposal will give rise to a profit of £600,000, Rentokil said.

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DIRECT Debit

UK BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES

DD YOUR DOUGH

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	756.20	803.60	- 3.80	2.35
General Inc	625.70	665.70	- 3.20	2.35
UK Growth Acc	523.20	556.70	- 2.90	2.32
UK Growth Inc	334.50	355.90	- 1.90	2.32
Higher Inc Acc	926.70	985.90	- 4.20	3.90
Higher Inc Inc	486.10	517.20	- 2.30	3.90
Gilt & Fxd Int Acc	219.70	231.90	0.40	5.49
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	93.90	98.07	- 0.10	5.49
Nth America	368.00	391.50	- 0.50	
Europe	406.80	432.80	+ 5.00	0.30
Brit Excell	103.10	109.70	- 0.70	2.47
Brit Fndmtls Acc	129.30	137.00	- 0.60	4.64
Brit Fndmtls Inc	85.33	90.78	- 0.29	4.54
Global Opps	107.70	114.60	- 0.70	
Balanced Acc	68.76	73.15	- 0.02	2.18
Balanced Inc	63.60	67.67	- 0.01	2.18
Japan Acc	41.29	43.93	- 0.64	
Pac Basin Acc	394.43	419.60	- 5.20	0.79
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	135.60	143.90	- 0.60	6.47
High Inc Equity	199.70	213.60†	- 0.20	4.54
Worldwide Bond	264.60	280.70†	+ 1.10	4.78
American Growth	437.60	467.60	- 4.40	0.36
Asian Pacific	326.60	349.30	+ 3.30	0.40
Assets & Earnings	323.80	346.30†	- 0.80	2.73
Euro Capital Acc	211.40	226.10	+ 1.50	0.90
Extra Inc	43.65	46.44†	- 0.03	7.88
General	296.40	315.30	- 0.80	2.91
Global Opps	76.43	81.21	+ 0.30	0.49
Japan	96.65	103.40	+ 1.30	
Managed Inc	50.23	53.44†	- 0.04	4.21
Mastertrust	180.90	193.50	- 0.20	1.24
US Emerging Cos	175.90	188.10	- 1.60	
Special	87.21	92.78	- 0.07	1.70
International	143.40	152.60	- 0.30	0.57
Dividend & Growth	74.64	79.40	- 0.06	4.23
Global Cash & Sec	75.92	81.04	- 0.05	2.49
Latin America	82.76	88.04	- 0.57	0.44
Capital Reserve	149.80	149.80		4.70
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	101.30	107.70	- 0.40	2.23
Equity Income	141.60	150.60	- 0.90	3.99
Extra Income	275.60	293.10	- 0.70	6.19
Smaller Cos	110.80	117.80†	- 0.10	1.50
International	121.80	129.50†	+ 0.60	1.38
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2507.00	2609.00	- 6.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	67.06	69.57†	- 0.26	
Emerging Mkts	78.18	81.43	- 0.26	0.04
European	165.80	172.40†	- 2.20	
Extra Income #	53.06	55.95	- 0.08	5.92
Far East Emg Eco	126.10	132.30	- 0.60	0.47
Fixed Interest #	26.50	27.56†	- 0.06	8.82
Fund Inv Tst #	163.90	172.00†	- 0.50	9.66
Japan	168.90	175.50	- 2.40	
Latin American	71.62	74.51	- 0.21	0.65
Pacific	80.58	84.59†	- 0.52	0.37
Property Share	83.11	87.35	- 0.34	2.01

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	159.42	171.42	+ 0.07	0.77
UK Equity	106.10	113.26†	- 0.25	3.15
UK Equity & Bd	61.51	65.17	- 0.24	6.17
UK Smlr Cos	54.94	58.76	+ 0.08	1.61
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	826.06	838.54	.	4.10
Inv Fd Acc	834.10	846.70		
Fxd Int Sec Inc	156.32	156.94	...	9.11
Fxd Int Sec Acc	157.83	158.47		
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	822.56	835.00		4.14
Investment Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Fixed Int Inc	127.70	128.22		9.05
Fixed Int Acc	242.92	243.90		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
[illegible] Intl	86.84	91.56		5.47
Beck Bio-Tech	39.14	42.60	+ 2.88	
Accum Ethical Tst	192.71	202.96		0.42
City Fin Assets	82.39	86.51†		1.95
City Fin Intl	91.99	96.60†		0.06
Friars Hse Cap	323.04	343.66		2.32
Buckley Wrld Grth	144.24	152.89		
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	96.23	101.05	+37.99	2.12
Shaw Utilities	66.19	67.83†	- 0.09	6.53
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.24	63.91		
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grth	83.77	89.12	- 0.18	0.02
Dragon Growth	71.76	78.74	+ 0.69	0.38
Equity High Inc	101.78	107.70	- 0.52	3.57
-do- Accum	149.21	157.89	- 0.76	3.57
Extra Income Inc	27.60	29.06†		6.73
Extra Income Acc	31.25	32.91		6.73
European Grth	71.54	75.70	+ 0.89	0.28
Evergreen	31.96	34.18	+ 0.37	
General Equity	119.55	126.17	- 0.74	2.49
Japan Growth	40.80	43.40	+ 0.77	
Peregrine Grth	71.21	75.35	- 0.30	2.01
Pfd Sm Cos Inc	41.17	43.57†	- 0.11	1.18
-do- Accum	44.10	46.67	- 0.12	1.18
Retirement Inc #	30.64	32.60	- 0.21	5.41
Special Sits	51.64	55.53	+ 0.21	2.64
UK & Overseas	65.08	68.87	+ 0.12	0.62
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	76.72	79.39	- 0.32	3.89
Capital	91.95	95.78	- 0.81	2.30
High Income	53.95	56.19	+ 0.25	6.58
Top 50	64.44	67.12	- 0.32	2.40
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	210.09	218.87†	- 0.25	4.20
Long Gilt	46.20	48.10†	- 0.22	5.70
Monthly Inc Plus	53.42	55.65	+ 1.33	8.05
Preference Share	50.66	52.78†	+ 2.15	7.39
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	152.58	158.95†	- 0.31	5.37

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	191.10	203.30	+ 2.30	
Income #	245.77	261.45	- 0.72	3.97
UK Growth	95.30	101.38	- 0.35	1.62
Intl Growth	94.10	100.10	+ 0.67	0.56
Ecology	111.26	118.36†	+ 0.26	0.86
European	234.07	249.01†	+ 2.92	0.20
Far Eastern	324.30	345.00	+ 3.60	
UK Special Sits	60.26	64.27†	+ 0.04	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.97	60.76†	- 0.25	
High Income #	55.52	59.22†	- 0.16	4.73

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	115.09	122.33†	+ 1.34	0.47
Intl Bond	62.81	65.14†	+ 0.03	4.99
Intl Equity Growth	91.29	96.93†	+ 0.46	0.61
N Amer Growth	151.39	160.78	- 1.64	0.87
Special Sits Growth	31.26	33.25	- 0.02	2.06
UK Growth	514.85	547.72†	- 0.87	2.52
-do- Accum	710.20	764.04	- 1.23	2.52
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1486.00	1507.70†		2.80
Income #	1089.80	1105.10		4.50

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Fig. 11. The water-lily fold for table napkins.

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	104.90	108.48		6.63
Euro Pref Inc	114.20	121.50	+ 1.00	2.75
-do- Accum	114.20	121.50	+ 1.00	2.75
Gilt Yield	122.90	129.70	- 0.10	6.24
Global Income	243.70	259.30†	- 1.90	3.01
High Yield	179.20	190.60†	- 1.60	4.89
-do- Accum	604.20	642.80†	- 5.30	4.89
Money Market	99.73	99.73†	- 0.01	5.53
Smlr Cos Div	66.58	70.93†	- 0.19	2.65
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.65	10.81	- 0.04	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	162.30	172.70	+ 1.10	
Asian Growth	309.90	329.70	+ 2.90	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	181.80	185.50†		4.13
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	97.77	100.80†	- 0.10	6.51
M & S Inv Pfolio	193.18	199.18	- 0.20	2.33
-do- Accum	231.50	238.60	- 0.70	2.33
UK Sel Pfolio	174.90	180.30	- 1.10	2.32
-do- Accum	213.00	219.60	- 1.30	2.33
UK 100 Cos	134.20	134.20	- 0.80	2.41
-do- Accum	137.80	137.60	- 0.80	2.41
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 642				
Managed Tst	72.74	77.38		3.41

■ THEATRE

In Stratford the RSC doesn't quite rise to the bloodthirsty mood of Kyd's *Spanish Tragedy*

■ OPERA

The Brighton Festival strikes pure dross with a staging of von Einem's *Danton's Death*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ DANCE

Choreography lets the side down in Aletta Collins's otherwise fine adaptation of *Three Sisters*

■ MUSIC

Simon Rattle goes into spring mode, even if the weather doesn't. in Birmingham

First to cry for revenge

[illegible]

The Spanish Tragedy
Swan, Stratford

The end of *Hamlet* sees four corpses left on stage and four off. Kyd's *Spanish Tragedy*, which was written two decades earlier and can claim to be its most important precursor, outmatches its body-count. Three characters are in various states of decay in the wings. Six are waiting to be carted off by the morticians. The tongue that the protagonist has bitten off before stabbing himself to death lies centre-stage, like some strawberry jellybean. And the ghost of yet another unfortunate sits cackling with glee at what has been a good day for the revenge industry.

With a little help from Seneca, Kyd invented that most popular of Elizabethan genres, the revenge tragedy. Indeed, there is good reason to suppose that in the 1580s he wrote the lost play known as *Ur-Hamlet* and widely agreed to be Shakespeare's prime source for his own treatment of the Elsinore story. Certainly, all contemporary directors of *Hamlet* itself should be forced to spend an evening reading Kyd. The experience would doubtless remind them of how much subtlety Shakespeare brought to revenge drama; but, more importantly, it might show them that our ancestors felt vengeance with a visceral intensity that modern English actors and theatregoers have mislaid.

It would be impossible to stage *The Spanish Tragedy* quite as gutlessly as *Hamlet* is regularly staged. It is too blunt, crude and direct. What is the Spanish nobleman Don Andrea's posthumous reaction to the Portuguese prince, Balthazar, who has killed him in battle? Why, to return to Earth and team up with a character called Revenge, who in Michael Boyd's production is sometimes a hooded grey figure, sometimes an offstage voice, sometimes a half-mad babble echoing from the distance.

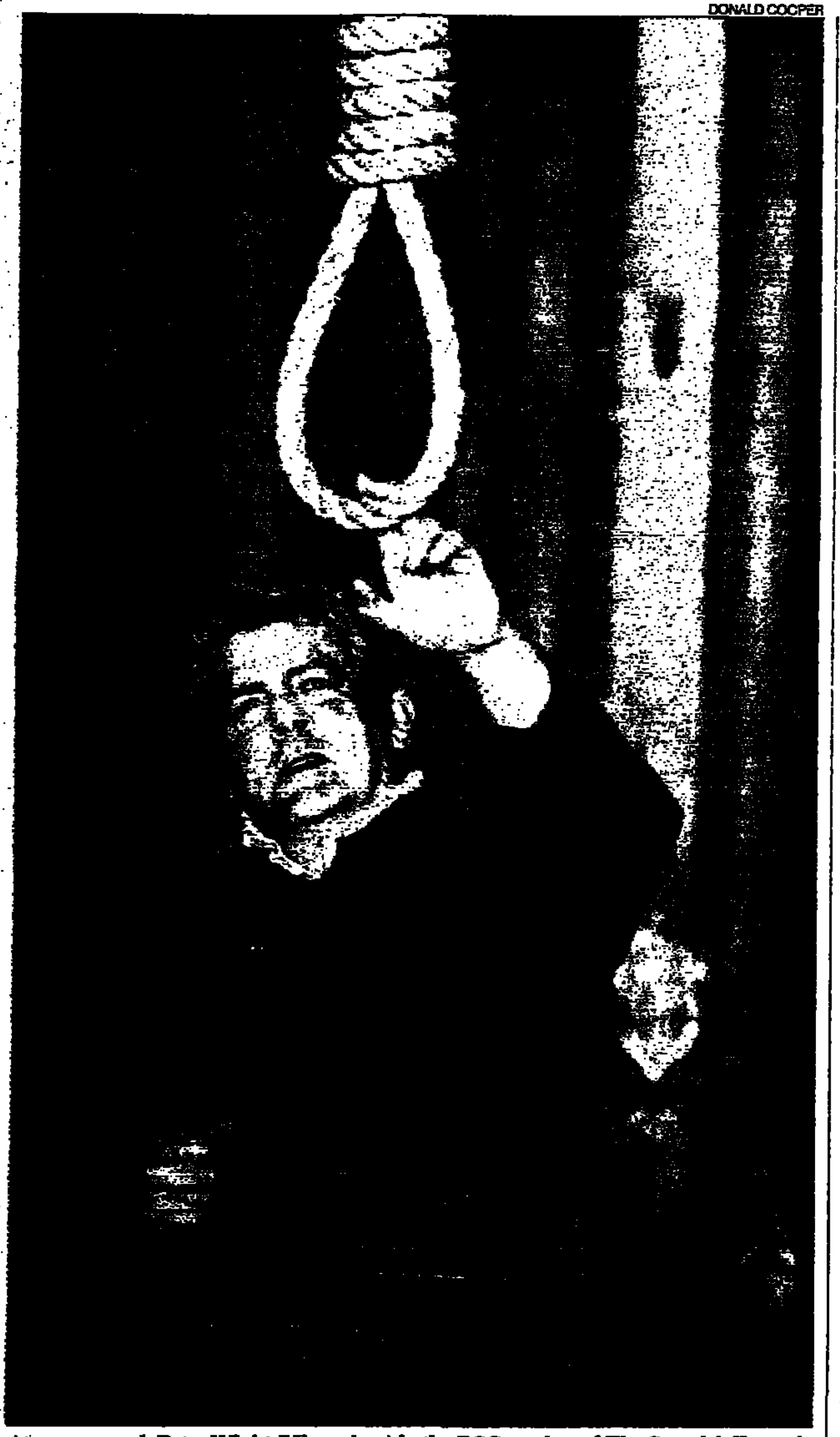
And what does Balthazar do when he discovers that the woman he fancies, Bel-Imperia, loves one Horatio? To hiss "I must take revenge or die myself" and, in cahoots with the princeling Lorenzo, to hang and disembowel his rival. And does Horatio's father, Hieronimo, take a resigned view of the matter? That is a silly question, for this is a world where the good avenger does not just kill his enemies. He pursues them to Hell and ensures they are "dragged through boiling Acheron and live-dying still in endless flames".

Is it impossible for a director nowadays to do full justice to an author who sees anger and evil as two active forces, ferociously interlocked for eternity? Are revivals of his work likely to leave us feeling more kidded than Kydded? I fear so. There is much that is admirable in Boyd's production. He resists the temptation to send up the play's sensations. He stages the proceedings with tough clarity on a stage that mostly stays bare. He gets decent performances from Robert Glenister, whose vulpine slant of the mouth well suits Lorenzo, and Siobhan Redmond, a shattered, bewildered Bel-Imperia, and (especially) Patrice Naiambana, whose Andrea is to be found prowling the stage in furious frustration when he is not balefully hammering at it.

Yet something — total belief in the characters' grim obsessions? — still proves elusive. The problem is epitomised by Peter Wight's Hieronimo, who prefigures Hamlet by contemplating suicide and running a bit mad but needs also to be possessed by a vindictive monomania alien to the Dane. Wight makes the interesting choice of playing the character as a bereft bumbler out of his depth: Polonius as hitman. It does not meet the emotional occasion. Nor, quite, does the production.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER



At a noose end: Peter Wight (Hieronimo) in the RSC staging of *The Spanish Tragedy*

Case for the guillotine

OPERA

Danton's Death
Dome, Brighton

ANY regional festival brave enough to mount the British premiere of a 50-year-old opera by an Austrian composer who is barely a household name in his own household deserves success. But as I escaped at the end of Gottfried von Einem's French Revolution opera *Danton's Death* with a heartfelt cry of "liberté!", I felt only sadness that the Brighton Festival had struck pure dross. This is *Les Mis* without the tunes — or, for that matter, the plot, the characterisation or the emotional depth.

What a pity. Von Einem is one of the good guys of 20th-century musical history: a political liberal imprisoned by the Nazis, but a musical conservative with a style hovering somewhere between Strauss and Berg. For von Einem, Georg Büchner's great drama *Dantons Tod* — a chilling portrait of moderation crushed and bloodlust rampant during Robespierre's Reign of Terror — would have held special significance.

But when he came to set it to music he put all the passion into the orchestral writing: a score rich in nagging rhythms, baleful brass outbursts, ominous bass patterns and eerie counterpoints, admirably delivered here by the Flanders Symphony Orchestra under David Angus's cogent direction. To the singers, regrettably, he gave all too little of substance.

The text (newly translated by Amanda Holden) gabbles on about power, corruption and revolution, yet no solo seems to be extended more than a few seconds. At the beginning, at least, exchanges are woefully sketchy. The execution itself is a hopeless anticlimax. Only at the end of each act — when Lucile, the wife of Danton's comrade Camille Desmoulins, goes melodiously bonkers — does von Einem work up any sort of dramatic momentum.

Whether a production more focused than John Lloyd Davies's for New Sussex Opera would have given Danton a fighting chance of life before death is debatable. The early scenes (coquettish prostitutes in brothel; mob being beastly to toff) looked like a fancy-dress party in an advertising agency. Then, for Danton's trial, Davies switched to the sort of frenetic lighting-plot last seen in Dagenham discos in the late Seventies.

All very distracting for the singers. Even so, Alan Oke's powerful Camille, Alison Roddy's Lucile and Andrew Slater's Danton impressed. But the NSO Chorus should have been twice as large and more than twice as accurate. All in all, an evening which made one feel that the guillotine had its merits.

RICHARD MORRISON

Brightening up the season

CONCERT

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham

FOR anyone travelling to Symphony Hall through an early-evening blizzard Sir Simon Rattle's celebration of spring — Delius's *First Cuckoo*, Schumann's and Britten's *Spring Symphonies* — must have seemed sadly out of place. After the concert, with the jubilant sound of Britten's finale fresh in the mind, it was definitely the weather that was out of place.

As a symphony, Britten's settings of 13 texts from as many different sources do not add up. But there are some masterful things here, like the drizzling *Waters Above*, and the star-lit *Out on the Lawn I Lie in Bed*; and there is the finale where Britten risks everything on an undistinguished waltz tune and an unfortunate cowhorn and intoxicates with it.

It depends on how it is done, of course. Although all three soloists — Joan Rodgers, Catherine Robbin and Ian Bostridge — had sung freely and cheerfully in *Spring, the Sweet Spring*, and although the mezzo was particularly eloquent in the Auden setting, they were not always at ease with each other. But the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus had been exceptionally well prepared and it was they, encouraged by Rattle's supreme last effort, who finally lifted the performance onto the ecstatic level which the work must attain if it is to survive.

Why the conductor modified Schumann's string scoring at the beginning of the Larghetto of his First Symphony it is impossible to imagine. While the first violins might well have got a warmer sound out of the melodic line by concentrating their efforts on the G-string, rather than dividing into octaves, that is not what is required of them. When a conductor and orchestra can treat Schumann's scoring as effectively as Simon Rattle and the CBSO did elsewhere in the work, it seems a pity not to shed the same kind of illumination on all of it.

As for the *First Cuckoo in Spring*, it seemed a little lost in Symphony Hall where, in spite of some seductive woodwind sounds the colours somehow failed to blend into the gently protective atmosphere it needs for the projection of its poetic message.

GERALD LARNER

DANCE: Aletta Collins and Laurie Booth at the Spring Loaded festival

Looking good, saying little

Aletta Collins has a long list of theatrical credits to her name. In addition to her own dance productions over the years, she has choreographed and co-directed *Un Ballo in Maschera* for Munich; did the same with Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong* for Glyndebourne; and choreographed the current West End production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. One thing all this has taught her is how to stage a good show.

Her dance adaptation of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* (at the Place Theatre) is craftily arranged. With a cast of four, and a simple set at her disposal — tree, wall, window and chair are all that Tom Cairns needs to suggest the sisters' stifling domestic environment — Collins is able to encompass the general ennui of Chekhov's frustrated heroines and the inexorability of their ever-narrowing horizons.

The choice of music is apposite and witty. The Sister Sledge hit *We Are Family* cheekily introduces our three miserable siblings, dressed in shapeless cardigans and sensible shoes, listlessly offering their thumbs in the hope that some passing motorist will whisk them away to Moscow. The use of Tchaikovsky's nostalgic piano music could be a smiling reference to MacMillan's Chekhovian *Winter Dreams* for Covent Garden.

But staging isn't everything when it comes to dance. And choreography is often overlooked in the challenge to be theatrical. Collins tries to suggest the uncertainty and malaise that incapacitates the sisters in the choreography (for herself, Bernadette Iglich and Rachel Krische). But her movements lack a richness of personality, that ability to elaborate on basic emotional impulses. A low-brow humour elicits odd laughs (fine performance here by the lone male, Dan O'Neill), but the production never makes up its mind which way it wants to go.

One thing you can say for **Laurie Booth**. When it comes to collaborators, he sure knows how to pick them. Both of his Spring Loaded pieces (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall) had the advantage of compelling aural and visual personalities. Which made it all the more annoying that so little of consequence was happening within these atmospheric landscapes.

The programme opener, *Stormgarden*, featured a thrusting and systematic soundscape by Hans Peter Kuhn, a frequent Booth collaborator. Its clangs, burbles, rumbles and roars added up to an impressive collection of elemental cries and whispers. Paul Burwell's sleek set design practically reverberated with the gusts of wind generated by the small fans.

Booth's movement language for himself and Gary Lambert was characteristically loose-limbed and well-oiled, the body winding and unwinding like a corkscrew. But how irritating to watch choreography that was so concerned with busying limbs and exercising joints.

ACT/ual f/ACT/ual boasted sound from Scanner (aka Robin Rimbaud), a "telephone terrorist" who uses snatches of mobile phone conversations in his aural collages. This score, though, contained only the briefest of phone talk; it bulged with cobbled-together melodies of many musical hues. Here the body definition of the three dancers — Booth, Lambert and Shelly Baker — carried a wilder, wider and more spontaneous message than *Stormgarden*, meatier in its muscularity and more seductively physical to watch.

DEBRA CRAINE

Britain tunes in to Europe

RADIO

AS I was saying before I had to rush off to the news pages to chart the airwave progress of that nice but firm Mr Blair, a lot of people have been complaining to Radio 4 about all these American programmes the network has been transmitting over the past few months.

Many of the people who wrote to *Feedback* demanded more European programming, which should have been sufficient early warning to the Conservatives that posters showing Blair on Helmut Kohl's knee were unlikely to have middle England rushing to vote for the nearest Eurosceptic.

Mind you, I can confirm that Kohl is big enough to take the weight. And I can confirm this because Kohl wears size XXL in cardigans. Not a lot of people would have known that without listening to *Bismarck in a Cardigan* (Radio 4, Wednesday), an excellent documentary about Chancellor Kohl.

The cardigan in question occupies a prominent place in the Museum of German History in Bonn, and it was chosen to symbolise the sheer size of the Chancellor's reputation. Its presence also suggests that the image of Germans having a sense of humour to the same extent that the Dutch have mountains may be a little unfair. One doubts that any British museum would have the wit to send for John Major's spectacles.

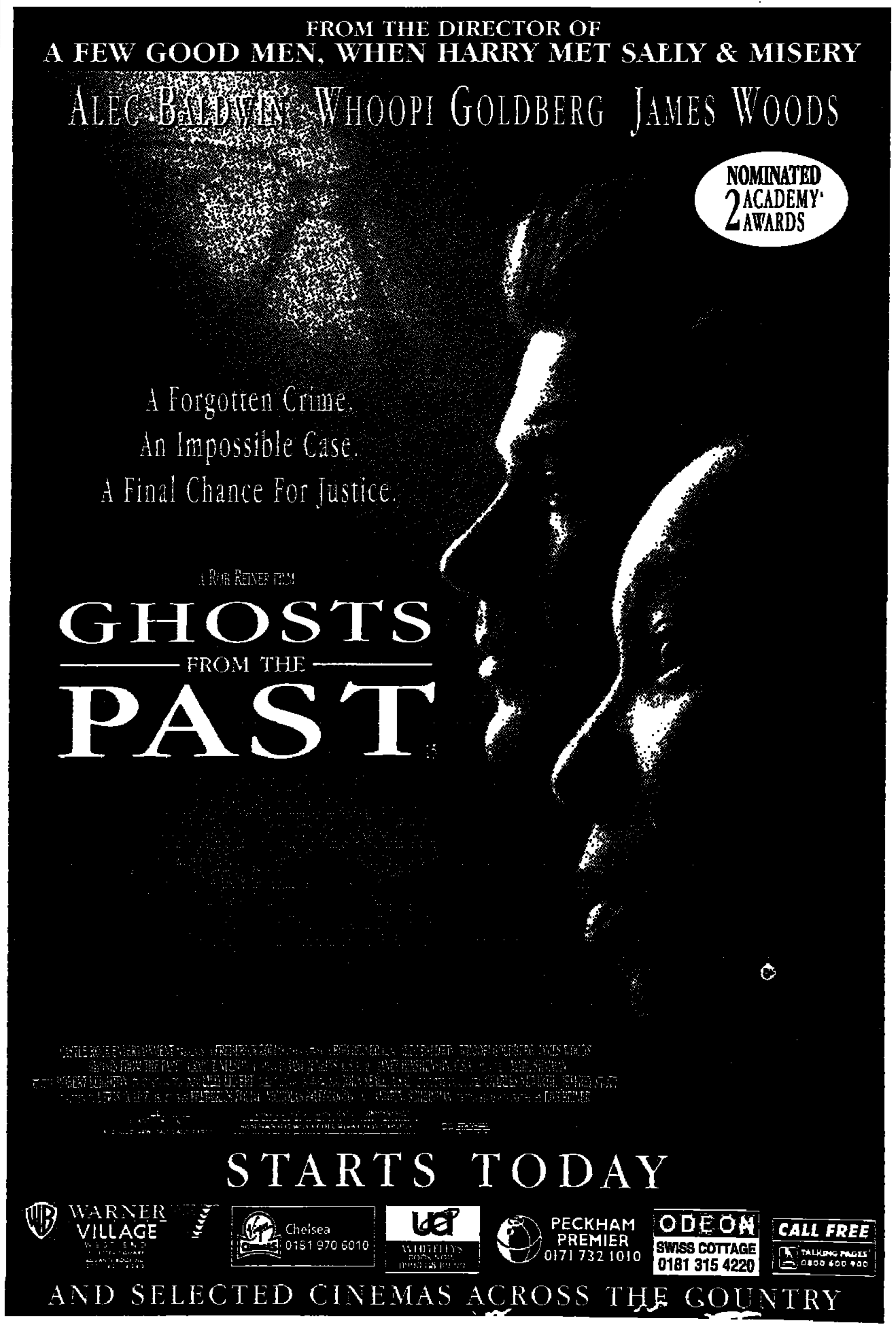
David Sells presented the programme. Indeed, contrary to the views of complainants about too much Americana, Sells has done many good documentaries on radio about various aspects of European political life.

The use of Bismarck in the title refers to the fact that if Kohl wins the German general election next year, he could outstrip Bismarck (19 years) as the longest-serving German Chancellor. Sells deftly illustrated Kohl's twin images: as the unifier who sees a European federation as banishing forever the risk of war and, conversely, as the obsessive patriot imposing German power on the rest of the Continent.

Sells is a journalist who describes the landscape rather than trying to persuade us of its merits and flaws. Therefore, the listener was left to decide which of these Kohls is the real one. Perhaps the answer is both. The programme demonstrated that Kohl is a man of charm and cunning, the deadliest combination known to politics.

Wherever Blair is taking us at Amsterdam and beyond, we need more programmes like this ahead of any future referendum on Europe. Meanderings along the Mississippi are all well and good, but the murky waters of the Rhine, the Danube and the Seine are where radio needs to shine its light now. Let us hope enough listeners gather on the banks.

PETER BARNARD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■ POP 1

The Big Bang spirit of Nirvana lives on in the new album from Foo Fighters

■ POP 2

. . . while Robert Cray offers more of his meticulously organised blues on *Sweet Potato Pie*

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 3

The spiciest thing from Sunderland? Upwardly mobile Kenickie flex their girl-power

■ POP 4

It really is one-derful, says Caitlin Moran in defence of the BBC's pop station

Ten million reasons to love your Radio 1

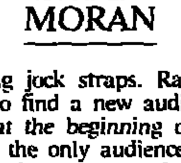
The wonderful one's audience may have halved, but it is changing the face of pop. So be glad to be British

One of the most horrifying collections of syllables in the English language must be "market forces". Dumb, brutal, and slick with the greases of greed, market forces would have us believe that libraries, parks, public swimming baths, art galleries, museums and music are self-indulgent luxuries, while nuclear weaponry is *something to be encouraged.* Which is why the tutting column inches devoted to Radio 1's "decline" are so disappointing.

From its 1970s peak of 20 million listeners, when "characters" such as the Hairy Cornflake (Dave Lee Travis) and the Bearded Fish Peddlar (Noel Edmonds) told jokes that a budgie could have scripted, the rejigged Radio 1 now pulls in a mere 10.2 *million. Market forces,* it would seem, do not go a bundle on the sounds of the *underground,* and DJs who know about music and refuse to talk down to their audience. *The ten million drop-off* is somehow seen as a massive failure, as though success can only be measured in numbers.

It's easy to engage market forces if you are willing to disengage three-quarters of your brain. Simply play a mixture of the tried-and-tested and the 1990s equivalent of easy listening — Celine Dion, *Michael Bolton,* Peter Andre, Boyzone. Get in a boorish DJ to make obvious, laboured *quips about the Royal Family,* the Spice Girls and "Whacko Jacko". Radio 1 pursued this *broadcasting direction* for much of the 1980s, foisting on us the clunking whimsy of Steve Wright and his gargling "posse" and the living horror of Jakki Brambles, who seemed to believe that being *into Living In A Box but also* having a Smiths album made her a talent pusher on a par with John Peel.

But with the loosening up of broadcasting licences in the late 1980s, Radio 1 started losing listeners hand over fist *to stations offering big cash* prizes and "shock jocks", so named because they were talking jock straps. Radio 1 had to find a new audience, *and at the beginning of the* 1990s the only audience that wasn't being catered for was the under-25s. As Radio 1's remit is to educate, inform and play cool music for hipsters in Nikes and dreads, it finally shook off the MOR horror of the 1980s. Along with the shakeup of *Top of the Pops,* it was one of the best things to happen to music since Bob Dylan plugged into the mains.



CAITLIN MORAN

The fact that Britain is *currently undergoing* a musical renaissance is almost entirely due to the BBC. As a *public broadcasting service,* only Radio 1 is in a position to ignore the strangling fiscal *considerations of market* forces. Placebo, the Chemical Brothers, Prodigy, Manic Street Preachers, Suede, the Divine Comedy, Oasis, DJ Shadow and Pulp are all now big stars influencing the main*stream — remember when* Phil Collins vowed that his next album would be "very Oasis?" — would never have gotten airplay anywhere else; and their success can only be to the betterment of British industry.

Music is, after all, our third biggest export, and those timid, lukewarm playlists of the 1980s meant that our artists were drawing on an ever-shrinking, stagnant pool of influences. Now, of course, we are in the exciting position of having a forthcoming generation of artists who are all post-drum and bass, trance, lo-fi *and hip hop, and* who will combine all of these to invent new and juicy music for the *year 2000.*

Because it is so difficult to put a value and a worth to *some things — and because* we are all so obsessed with putting value and worth on *things — market forces are* seen as the most valid indicators of success. But market forces *are only an accurate* yardstick for a limited number of commodities. No City analyst would say there was a "need" for a moderately successful public broadcasting service playing electrifying new music to a fairly limited audience. But then, why would anyone care what a City analyst had to say about *music?*

In ways that many business executives — and journalists — *would never understand, Melody Maker* and Radio 1 are far more important than the *Financial Times.* Like Eddie Izzard, the clockwork radio, Amnesty International and *Private Eye,* the BBC is still something that should make us proud to be British.

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Foo Fighters' *The Colour and the Shape* is stiff with songs that start off quietly and then explode into life like greyhounds out of the traps

Halfway to paradise

POP ALBUMS: Dave Grohl's latest attempt to lay the ghost of Nirvana almost comes off, says **David Sinclair**

FOO FIGHTERS
The Colour and the Shape
(Capitol CDEST 2295 £13.99)

ALTHOUGH he has emerged *from the Nirvana nightmare* in surprisingly good shape, drummer turned singer and *guitarist* Dave Grohl *seems to* have become inextricably wedded to the Big Bang method of songwriting as a result. *The Colour and the Shape,* Foo Fighters' second album, is stiff with songs that start off quietly and then explode into life *like greyhounds* out of the traps. This practice even extends to the running order of *the album, which is prefaced* with a brief quiet track, *Doll,* followed immediately by the *explosive Monkey Wrench,* a low-rent pastiche of the Ramones.

But when he avoids *this* cliché, as on the slow build and epic sweep of *My Hero* or the affecting acoustic ballad *Walking After You,* Grohl shows himself capable of more than just cruising on his reputation as one of the hard*est hitters in modern rock.*

It is a tall order these days for any American band to *make big guitars and a traditional* belting beat sound like anything other than an old-fashioned hangover from grunge, but Grohl has plenty of tantalisingly good ideas to offer, as he demonstrates on numbers ranging from the *delirious Wind Up to the* dreamy *February Stars.* Which makes *The Colour and the Shape* doubly disappointing — given a slightly fresher spin, it could have been great.

BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS
Beautiful World
(Revolution/RCA 74321 44109 £15.49)

THEY have been around since 1986, but *Big Head Todd* & the Monsters are still likely to surprise anyone who takes *their rather daunting name* at face value. The trio from Boulder, Colorado, has fash*ioned an* educated, blue-*rinsed* rock sound which, on gentler numbers such as *Please Don't Tell Her* and the title track of their fifth album, *Beautiful World,* echoes the plaintive appeal of Eric Clapton's more melodically adept work in the 1970s.

Produced by Jerry Harrison, formerly of Talking Heads, the album boasts a sublimely romantic feel. Singer and songwriter Todd Park Mohr keeps his voice in tune and his guitar sound unfailingly clean, but there is plenty of muscle in the romping rhythm of *Resignation Superman* and the sure-footed soloing of *Crazy Mary.*

The only incongruous note is struck by a version of John Lee Hooker's standard *Boom Boom,* featuring Hooker himself on vocals. The band rip into it with deceptively casual ease and the number soon grows wings it never had before. *It is a great* performance, but leaves the unsettling impression that they may *have been holding back on the* throttle a little too carefully on the rest of the album.

KENICKIE
At the Club
(Emidisc 7243 8 56147 £12.49)

NOT holding back in any department are Kenickie from Sunderland, the latest gang of teenage girls with attitude to launch an assault on the nation's charts and an older generation's nerves.

Pitching their stall somewhere between the confrontational angst of Courtney *Love's Hole* ("*Now her kisses* full at first/Ache like blisters waiting to get burst") and the *cartoon silliness of Shampoo* ("We dress cheap/We dress tacky/We dance for thrills"), Kenickie sweep through a raft of traditional sounding punk-*pop anthems* on their debut album like a crowd of rowdy schoolgirls gatecrashing a pensioners' social.

There are some ear-catching moments, especially *Robot Song,* with its oddly automated rhythm track and sad, existentialist lyric. But as happens so often with this kind of exercise, the album's initial shine is gradually worn away by the glaring lack of depth and variety.

ROBERT CRAY
Sweet Potato Pie
(Mercury 534 698 £13.99)

THERE is a tendency for even the greatest blues artists to become, at a certain stage in their careers, rather nonchalant about their recording commitments. But with more than 20 years on the road and *ten albums under his belt, this* has not yet happened to Robert Cray.

Sweet Potato Pie is another meticulously organised collection of songs, mostly written by Cray, which ooze elegance and poise; from the brooding, slow blues of *Back Home* to the barnstorming finale of *I Can't Quit.* The Memphis Horns — absent from his last album, *Some Rainy Morning* — are reinstated, adding a zestful touch to Cray's soulful vocals and ultra-dry guitar sound, especially with the lovely cascading motif at the end of *Simple Things.*

What Cray *has* lost, over the years, is the element of *surprise,* and the familiarity of his urbane touch now tends to *obscure the marvellous depth* of his talent. Let's hope he does not have to wait until he is in *his seventies before his genius* is rediscovered by the three million or so people who have bought *Strong Persuader* since it was released in 1986.

Compact discs reviewed here and on page 36 can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(3)	**Spice**	Spice Girls (Virgin)
2	(1)	**Tellin' Stories**	Charlatans (Beggars Banquet)
3	(4)	**White on Blonde**	Texas (Mercury)
4	(2)	**In it for the Money**	Supergrass (Parlophone)
5	(15)	**Republica**	Republica (Deconstruction)
6	(–)	**Flaming Pie**	Paul McCartney (Parlophone)
7	(5)	**Shelter**	Brand New Heavies (FFrr)
8	(11)	**Pop**	U2 (Island)
9	(13)	**Travelling Without Moving**	Jamiroquai (Sony S²)
10	(9)	**Ocean Drive**	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)

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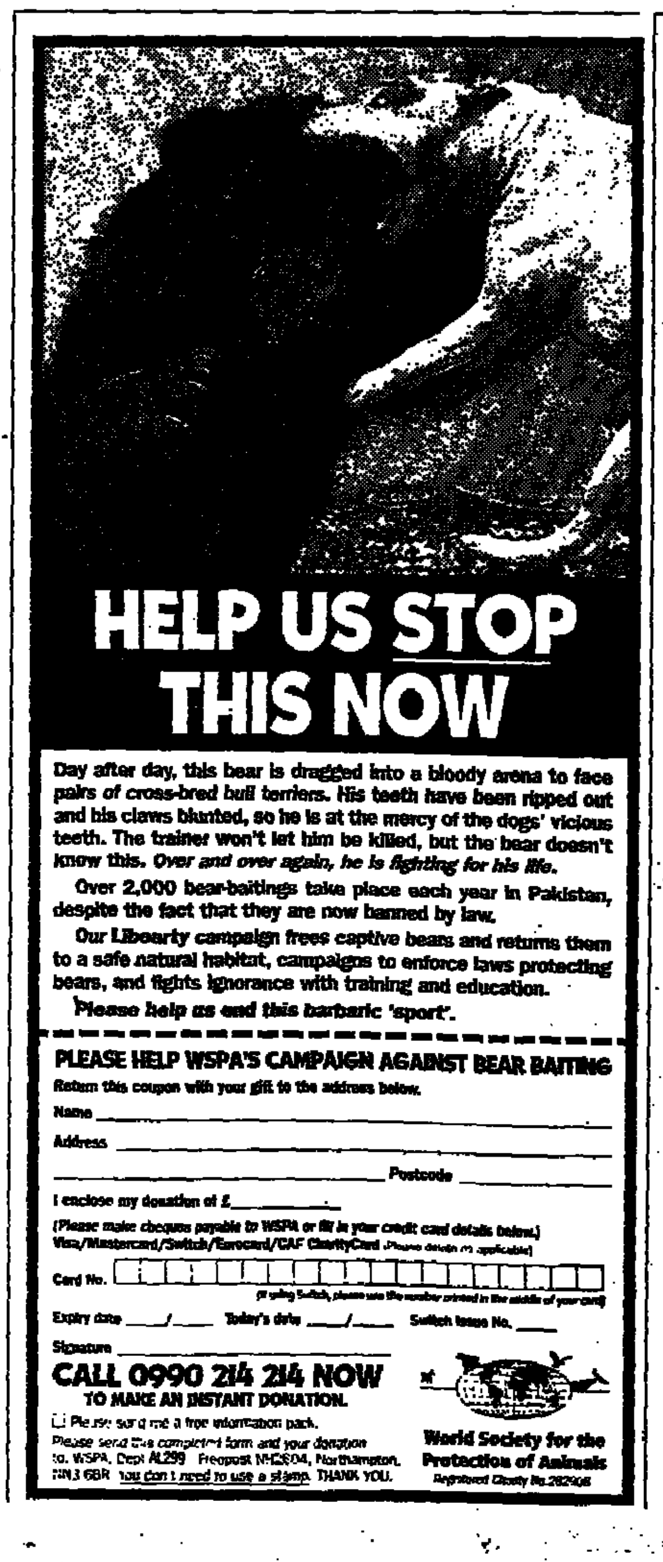
● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*



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A MEETING OF MINDS

■ POP 5

Madonna is a convert to the high-tech world of the remix producer . . .

■ POP 6

. . . and even the new album from Michael Jackson will dance to the computer's tune

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ TOMORROW

How does Alex Jennings rate as the RSC's new Hamlet? Read Benedict Nightingale's view

■ TOMORROW

Pavarotti in recital, and the other big weekend shows, are listed in The Directory

Mixtures as never before

Michael Jackson and Madonna know that if you want to get a hit, get a dance remix. **Paul Sexton** reports

Suffering from creative block? Going though a commercial slump? Image crisis bothering you? You need the new superhero of the record industry. Simply open your wallet and send for Remix Man. He can remake tender ballads into 128 beats-per-minute thumpers at a single bound and get the audience dancing happily around their handbags. He can turn a sensitive singer-songwriter into such a denizen of danceland that their own mother wouldn't recognise them.

Club version, dub style, urban groove, R&B mix, instrumental version, radio edit: you name it, he'll morph it, and it's odds-on your record will be more marketable as a result. It might not be a *song* anymore, but never mind the melody, feel the bpm.

Next Wednesday Michael Jackson will invade every record store in the world with a new album to tie in with his concert tour, which hits Britain on July 9. But closer inspection of *Blood on the Dance Floor: HIStory in the Mix* reveals it not to be a freshly formed piece of work in the conventional sense. Only five of its 13 pieces are new songs; the other eight are tracks first heard on 1995's *HIStory: Past Present and Future*, among them such benign ballads as *You Are Not Alone* and *Stranger in Moscow*, remodelled by the studio technicians who have become part of the new power elite in pop.

The sonic-scientists behind this "new" product include such pre-eminent talents as Todd Terry, Frankie Knuckles and David Morales and newer names such as Tony Moran, a 32-year-old New Yorker who says that he is employed for one reason only. "They don't give me any directions, they just say 'make it a hit'."

Labels thus spend vast sums altering the music they have already paid a record producer vast sums to supervise in the first place. Not that the mixes themselves need be costly to complete anymore, Moran says. "All you need is a computer. The programs to sequence the songs on aren't expensive either. The Bucketheads' record *The Bomb*, a huge 1995 hit fashioned out of bits of an old record by Chicago, is almost a pure sample from beginning to end, a record that could be made for $50."

> ❛ Remix Man can turn tender ballads into 128 bpm thumpers ❜

The remix industry grew from the simple 1970s notion that some music might become more danceable with a little studio post-production. In those days of discotheques and mirrorballs there was the seven-inch version for radio, the 12-inch version for the clubs, and that was your lot.

Then dance culture infiltrated every corner of the music business, and the industry discovered just what a magic marketing wand the remix could be. So it was that the knob-twiddlers and mouse-clickers moved in on Madonna's interpretation of *Don't Cry For Me Argentina* from the soundtrack of *Evita*. In perhaps the club genre's most gruesome piece of larceny to date, the familiar ballad was dragged kicking and screaming on to the dancefloor, and the perfect crime was completed when clubgoers lapped up the remixes and substantially enhanced the song's chart performance, taking it past 200,000 sales in the UK.

By such mysterious means can entire careers be refuelled. Suzanne Vega was just another sensitive singer-songwriter before the English duo DNA got their hands on her a cappella *Tom's Diner* in 1990, took it to the bright lights of clubland and introduced Vega, temporarily at least, to the youngest and funkiest audience she had ever known.

In January Tori Amos's single *Professional Widow* was repromoted with remixes by DJ Armand Van Helden, who stripped it down, remade it, unrecognisably around a meaningless vocal line, and gave a No 1 hit to an artist whose songs had never got within a country mile of a dancefloor before.

For an old-fashioned songwriter like Paddy McAloon of Prefab Sprout, it is a perplexing business. "It's an odd creative process stuck on top of what you thought was going to be the *final* creative process," he says. "Here you are as the 'creator', and what you've done has been handed on to somebody else.

"Future Sound Of London had some kind of club hit with a song of ours, *You Don't Love Me*, that owed *nothing* to the original. It was great, but it was nothing to do with me."

Kenny "Dope" Gonzalez is half of Masters At Work, responsible for the Bucketheads hit and known as one of the most powerful of remix teams, with clients including Madonna and Jackson. He and partner Louie Vega have recently curtailed that lucrative line of work to develop their own vibrant R&B/jazz collective, Nuyorican Soul.

Now, ironically, the poachers have turned gamekeepers and Gonzalez says the duo have blocked record company attempts to restyle their work. "They wanted to do remixes on our stuff, but we're like: 'No, we don't want people to perceive it as something it's not'."

With many radio programmers nervous of supporting ballads, airplay can also loosen record company budgets to finance upbeat mixes. Toni Braxton's *Unbreak My Heart* may have been a romantic power ballad through and through, but when a beat-filled version was made available, radio lapped it up and helped the song to a four-month stay in our charts.

And if the enforced jollity of that mix was hard for easy-listeners to take, one wonders what they will make of Moran's "extended club mix" of *I'd Really Love to See You Tonight*, a lovely mid-1970s ballad by England Dan and John Ford Coley and now a floor-filling single by, wait for it, Barry Manilow.

"I've only got the best response to that," Moran says. "When you see him live, singing the song as a dance record, everyone gets up. His audience is from 25 to 75 and you see them all shaking whatever they have to shake."

● *Michael Jackson's* Blood on the Dance Floor: HIStory in the Mix *is released on Wednesday by Epic*

Michael Jackson's new album *Blood on the Dance Floor* contains only five new songs — and eight remixes of songs from his last album

All the old dude

THESE days, **Ian Hunter** (at the Waterfront, Norwich) is almost as famous for his literary efforts as for his music. When his *Diary of a Rock'n'Roll Star*, first published in 1974, was recently reissued, it was hailed as one of the best ever books about rock. His waspish account of life on the road with his band, Mott the Hoople, established him as pop's Alan Clark.

What is most striking about the book, though, is how little it says about the performances, and how much is devoted to the business of killing time and complaining of the inadequacies of promoters, caterers and rock journalists. Yet it was the live shows that really forged Mott's reputation in their heyday. Fortunately, Hunter's current tour manages to recall some of that old energy without recourse to excessive nostalgia.

CONCERT

He may now be the wrong side of 50, but he still retains the halo of curly hair, the large shades and the plaintive, coarse-edged voice. He also remains committed to the Dylanesque ballad and the bar-room boogie. He opens with *Once Bitten Twice Shy*, a hit from his string of solo albums of the late 1970s. He gives a blistering rendition of *All the Way From Memphis* and a passionate version of *I Wish I Was Your Mother*, both from one of Mott's last records. He encores with a strangely stately version of *All the Young Dudes*, the song David Bowie wrote for Mott.

Hunter is not content, however, just to recycle the past. He has a new album to promote, *The Artful Dodger*, and from it comes the melancholic *Now is the Time*, the gospel-inflected *Something To Believe In* and the cockney rock of *23a, Swan Hill*. All of them are fine songs, well served by his five-piece band.

Hunter may be destined to remain in a pop twilight, but he continues to offer pleasures that bear comparison with those provided by such currently fashionable acts as Wilco.

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22

■ CHOICE 1

Marcel Marceau's alter ego, the white-faced Bip, is 50 years old

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Felicity Kendal is Madame Arkadina in a new version of *The Seagull*

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Old Vic

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ NEW VIDEOS

Nasty piece of work: Picasso is egotist, womaniser and boor in James Ivory's film, *Surviving Picasso*

■ NEW CDS

Maria Callas is in fine voice in a new compilation inspired by the West End play, *Master Class*

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

FORTUNE COOKIES In the build-up to the handover of Hong Kong on June 30, a season of provocative and radical performances and installations on "being Chinese" begins today and runs until June 8. Sheng Qi, a visual and performance artist from Anhui province, performs *Universal Brand Happy Chicken* in the Nash Room (tonight and tomorrow 8pm). In *A Life of Living Together* (tonight and tomorrow 9pm), Chinese movement artist Wen Hui and independent film-maker Wu Wenguang offer an intimate insight into the urban life of young people in modern China.
ICA *The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)*, for tickets and information

MARCEL MARCEAU: The 50th anniversary of Bip. Marceau's famous white-faced, stripe-shirted mime, is celebrated with a single British performance here.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4201). *Tomorrow, 7.30pm* Ⓢ

THE SEAGULL: Felicity Kendal plays Madame Arkadina, Michael Pennington is Trigorin and Victoria Hamilton plays Nina in Peter Hall's production of Tom Stoppard's new version of Chekhov.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then tomorrow, 7.30pm. In rep.

ELSEWHERE

BLACKPOOL: The choreographer **Siobhan Davies** celebrates 25 years of dance-making with a four-venue tour of Britain. *In a new double bill, Davies presents a revised version of White Man Sleeps, made for the inauguration of her own company in 1988. Her new work, Bank, set to music for harmonica and percussion, receives its world premiere tonight, with a further performance tomorrow.*
Grand, *Church Street (01253 28372)*, tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Next in **Brighton**, Gardner Arts Centre (01273 709709), May 15-17, **Cambridge**, Arts (01223 503333), May 30 and 31, **Sheffield**, Crucible (0114-276 9922), June 3 and 4

BURY ST EDMUNDS: Seventeen days *en fête begins with an evening of free* music, theatre, dance and comedy in *the Abbey Gardens (tonight, 7pm) and* the world premiere of John Hardy's *engrossing new opera, The Roswell Incident*, by Music Theatre Wales at the *Theatre Royal (tonight, 7.30pm)*
Bury St Edmunds Festival (01284 769505) *Today to May 25*

IPSWICH: Feydeau's familiar would-be adulterers and lovers hurtle in and out of each other's houses in **Winner Takes All** — original title *La Main Passe!*
Wolsey, Civic Drive (01473 253725) Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

ST IVES: *A Quality of Light*, an international arts initiative on the theme *of light, takes place from tomorrow at* venues around the Penwith peninsula in *West Cornwall, including Penzance*, Newlyn, Porthcurno and Land's End. *Six artists are taking part at the Tate Gallery* St Ives, including Bridget Riley, James *Hugonin, Marina Kramer, Victor Grippo*, Roger Ackling and Carol Robertson.
Tate Gallery St Ives, *Cornwall (01736 796543)*. Opens tomorrow, 11am. Then Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm, Sun, 11-5pm. Until November 2.

LONDON GALLERIES

Brunei: *Image and Form: Prints, Drawings and Sculpture from Southern Africa and Nigeria* (0171-637 2388) **Design Museum**: The Power of Erotic Design (0171-378 6055) **Festival Hall**: Edge of Madness: Sarajevo, a City and its People Under Siege (0171-960 4242) **Gallery in Cork Street**: Francesco Larenjo: "Simultaneities" (0171-287 8408) **National**: Dürer's *Saint Jerome* (0171-747 2885) **Portal**: Flowers and Gardens Show (0171-493 0706) **Thomas Gibson**: Anthony Palliser, Recent Paintings (0171-499 8572) **V & A**: The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of British Fashion (0171-938 8349/8441) **Whitechapel**: Antechamber (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ *House full, returns only*
◪ *Some seats available*
☐ *Seats at all prices*

■ ART: David Haig, Anton Lesser, Mark Williams in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, *WC2 (0171-369 1736)*. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until *October 4*

☐ **DONA ROSITA**: Phoebe Nicholls plays the patient spinster, pointlessly hopeful, but then this is Lorca. Eleanor Bron, Kathryn Hunter, Catia Imrie, Kerry Shale, Clive Swift also feature in Phyllida Lloyd's production.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 *4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm.* Until June 7

☐ **EAST IS EAST**: Second West End showing for Ayub Khan-Din's highly enjoyable family drama, comic and serious, set in 1970s Salford where a Pakistani patriarch vainly tries to bring up his six children according to ancestral tradition.
Royal Court Downstairs (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3.30pm. Until May 24

☐ **FAT JANET IS DEAD**: Last year's Playwriting Festival winner Steven Smith's comedy set on a south London estate during New Year's Eve 1979 where an unlikely trio celebrates the approaching decade. Jessica Dromgoole directs.
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens May 13. 6.30pm. Tue, 6.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 5pm. Until June 15

◪ **THE HERBAL BED**: Peter Whelan's *fascinating play transfers from the* Barbican. Teresa Banham plays Shakespeare's daughter, *and Stephen* Boxer her Puritan inquisitor.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **LADY IN THE DARK**: The 1941 musical by Moss Hart, Ira Gershwin and Kurt Weill. A fashion editor (Maria Friedman) visits her psychiatrist to tell of her dreams about three men. All songs except the linking ballad, *My Ship*, occur in the dream sequences. Directed by *Francesca Zambello*.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 *(0171-928 2252)*. Tonight-Tues, 7.30pm, mat Sat and Tues, 2.15pm. In rep

☐ **LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN**: Braham Murray's production of Wilde. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past and Rebecca Johnson plays the virtuous wife without a mother.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats *Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until June 28*

☐ **MASTER CLASS**: Patti LuPone recreates her Broadway starring role as Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's Tony-winning play where the great diva puts aspiring opera singers through their paces. Leonard Foglia directs.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **TOM AND CLEM**: Alec McCowen and Michael Gambon as sober Attlee and flamboyant Driberg, sorting out the world at Potsdam.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 *6007) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and* Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ◪ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) ◪ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ■ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **ANACONDA** (15): Silly fun in the rainforest with Jennifer Lopez, Jon Voight, and an unconvincing giant snake. Director, Luis Llosa.
Greenwich *(0181-235 3005)* **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** *(0181-315 4215)* **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-*315 4220)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-*370 2636)*

CRYING FREEMAN (18): Heavily stylised gang war thriller, adapted from a Japanese comic book, with Mark Dacascos and Julie Condra Douglas. Director, Christophe Gans.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **GHOSTS FROM THE PAST** (15): Simplistic race relations drama, with Alec Baldwin and James Woods. Director, Rob Reiner.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

KIDS RETURN: *Delinquents turn* boxers. Thoughtful, partly *autobiographical film from Japanese* cult director Takeshi Kitano.
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

KOLYA (12): Confirmed bachelor is *lumbered with a five-year-old boy*. Enchanting Czech Oscar-winner, *directed by Jan Sverak*.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** Ⓢ *(0171-727 4043)* **Renoir** *(0171-837 8402)* **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** *(0171-935 2772)*

MOLL FLANDERS (12): Robin Wright survives 18th-century London. Dull variation on Defoe's novel, written and directed by Pen Densham.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

CURRENT

◆ **DONNIE BRASCO** *(18): FBI agent* Johnny Depp befriends Mafia wiseguy Al Pacino. Thoughtful gangster saga, directed by Mike Newell.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ ***THE ENGLISH PATIENT*** *(15)*: *Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite worth all the praise. Director Anthony Minghella*
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***LIAR LIAR*** *(12)*: Lawyer Jim Carrey tells the truth for 24 hours. Attractive *comedy, soft round the edges*.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** *(0171-636 6148)* **Empire** (0990-888 990) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE PEOPLE VS LARRY FLYNT** *(18)*: *Rollercoaster ride through the life and court cases of the pornographer played by Woody Harrelson*.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (0181-315 *4220)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* **Virgin Chelsea** *(0171-352 5096)* **Warner West End** *(0171-437 4343)*

◆ **SCREAM** (18): Wes Craven's horror romp, with Neve Campbell.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** *(0181-315 4220)* **Plaza** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** *(0171-935 2772)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** *(0171-352 5096)* **Haymarket** *(0171-839 1527)* **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** *(0171-437 4343)*

Not such a pretty picture

NEW ON VIDEO

Anthony Hopkins as Picasso in a film focusing on the egotism and sheer nastiness of the central character

■ SURVIVING PICASSO
Warner, 15, 1996

ANTHONY HOPKINS looks more like Picasso than you might expect, but we never meet the towering artist of the 20th century. This is a film about Picasso the egotist, the womaniser and boor, seen through his years with Francoise Gilot (played by screen newcomer Natascha McElhone). James Ivory's direction is more animated than usual. But the sheer *nastiness* of the central character wreaks havoc; you want to escape this man's company. Available to rent.

■ THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN
Warner Terror Vision, 15, 1957

JUST when British cinema was ready to die of anaemia, along came Hammer with human organs gleaming brightly, blood smeared around like tomato sauce, and Christopher Lee staggering about in bandages. Critics talked about "disgusting charnelry", though Terence Fisher's movie, the first in Hammer's cycle, looks fairly timid today. Peter Cushing is on good form as the Baron who is, in his wife's innocent words, "locked in his old laboratory for hours on end".

■ IN A YEAR OF 13 MOONS
Connoisseur, 18, 1978

INSPIRED by the suicide of Fassbinder's ex-lover, this extraordinary film follows the fortunes of Erwin (Volker Spengler), who becomes Elvira after a sex-change operation, but finds fulfilment in neither gender. Fassbinder marshals the techniques of vintage Hollywood melodramas only *to aim them at the feelings and places* that Hollywood ignored. This is a world of cold, unfriendly urban corners, *of garish bars and empty* business offices; a film darkly humorous, often unsettling, and surprisingly tender.

■ THE ISLAND OF DR MOREAU
Entertainment, 12, 1996

WHAT *other film offers the sight of* Marlon Brando caked in make-up, waving limply, and carried aloft *through a crowd of half-human beasts* on what looks like a customised Popemobile? When Brando's crazed *doctor is on parade, you can enjoy this* adaptation of H.G. Wells's tale as a camp entertainment. Once he's absent, the film becomes far more nasty than silly. The director is John Frankenheimer. Available to rent.

■ THROUGH THE OLIVE TREES
Artificial Eye, 1995, U

FEW contemporary film-makers achieve *more* with less than the Iranian Abbas Kiarostami. He saves any intricacies for the script: this one plays with the boundaries of cinema and reality. But the camera keeps quiet, observing rural people playing in a film set in an area devastated by the 1990 earthquake. A bricklayer is cast as the husband of a girl whose grandmother, in real life, had refused *his offer of marriage. During repeated* takes, he woos the lady once more. Love never dies; nor, despite earthquakes, does the Iranian spirit. Touching and uplifting.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Nordic chastity; a Callas compilation; a classy German clarinettist

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

STENHAMMAR
Symphony No 2: Excelsior!
Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Sundkvist
Naxos 8.553888★★★ £4.99

THE Swedish composer Wilhelm Stenhammar (1871-1927) once told Carl Nielsen that what he admired about the latter's work was its "Nordic chastity", which he found bracing in "these sensually voluptuous times". If that makes Stenhammar sound ascetic, his music proclaims the opposite. His Second Symphony is easy-going, lyrical in melodic invention and only just short of voluptuous in harmony. It does have characteristic Nordic features, however, notably in the folk-dance contours of the first movement and Scherzo.

The Second Symphony is as good a place to start as any with this accessible composer, and under his compatriot Petter Sundkvist the Royal Scottish National Orchestra makes a convincingly sympathetic job of it. The coupling, Stenhammar's upward-striving symphonic overture *Excelsior!*, is the same as that on Neeme Järvi's recording for BIS. Both the latter and Järvi's remake for DG are strong full-price recommendations, but once again Naxos has come up with a very acceptable budget alternative.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ MASTER CLASS
Maria Callas
EMI CDC 5 56411 2★★ £12.99

EMI's latest Callas compilation is "inspired by the West End play". Terence McNally's *Master Class* at the Queen's. McNally in turn was inspired by her records, including those of her teaching at the Juilliard in 1971 and 1972. Anyone who feels that things are getting a bit incestuous could have a point.

Half the CD is devoted to Callas in New York passing on her knowledge and style, coaxing and constantly correcting one young singer as Rosina in Rossini's *Barbiere* and another as Mimi in *Bohème*. When class is over we move directly into Callas's versions of their arias, recorded in 1958 and 1954 respectively. Neither Rosina nor Mimi features at the Queen's, so the CD's advertising claim about "well loved arias....heard during the *Master Class* production" does not bear too much examination.

However there are complete scenes from Bellini's *La sonnambula* and Verdi's *Macbeth*, which dominate respectively first and second half of the play. They also happen to be among Callas's finest recordings.

The inclusion of an early account of Tosca's *Vissi d'arte* is an irrelevance. But admirers will be glad to have on disc her final words to the Juilliard students, begging them to seek neither fireworks nor easy applause, but to strive for feeling and diction. They end the play too. No texts of the arias are given. She would not have liked that.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ BOULEZ, STRAVINSKY ETC
Dal niente
Eduard Brunner
ECM 1599 453 257-2★★★ £15.49

THEIR releases are few and far between, their designs a characteristically austere designer monochrome. But from *out of ECM's distinctive CDs*, matching rare repertoire with rare artistry, a kaleidoscope of musical *colour* invariably bursts forth, and its latest releases are no exception. The *German clarinettist*, Eduard Brunner, presents a generous and highly imaginative 70-minute recital: its title, *Dal niente* is taken from a piece written for him by Helmut Lachenmann in which breath turns to sound and back again in a mesmerising 15 minutes of virtuoso vanishing tricks. Stravinsky's Three Pieces lead to the tiny five measures he wrote to Picasso on a greetings telegram. Then Boulez's *Domaines* of 1925 in which six teasing sketches are answered by six "miroirs": the soloist can vary *sequence and dynamics* at will. Brunner separates the pieces widely, *exaggerating* the role of chance. It's also well worth seeking out violinist Michelle Makarski's disc, *Caoine* (ECM 1587 449 957-2) in which the eponymous Celtic lament or "keen" is turned and turned about by American composer Stephen Hartke in the revealing company of a Baroque Passacaglia by Biber, a Chaconne by Reger, and more besides.

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 23 Apr-23 May The Judge Hangs - a selection by **Sir Stephen Tumim** 11 Motcomb St SW1 0171 235 8144

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Tomor 2.00 & 7.00, Wed, Thur (Last Night) 7.30 MacMillan's **THE JUDAS TREE**/Tetley's **AMORES**/ Balanchine's **SYMPHONY IN C**
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Law Report May 9 1997 Court of Appeal

Home Secretary entitled to conclude France is a safe third country

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte Canbolat

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment April 30]

In deciding whether a third country was safe for the purposes of section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, the Home Secretary had to satisfy himself that there was no real risk that that country would send an asylum seeker to another country otherwise than in accordance with its international obligations.

Despite the concerns of special adjudicators as to whether asylum seekers in France received a proper opportunity to have their claims determined in accordance with French law, the Home Secretary was entitled to conclude that France was a country to which he could authorise an asylum seeker's removal under the 1996 Act.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Gulay Canbolat against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Moses) on February 14 (*The Times* February 24) to dismiss his application for judicial review of the decisions of:

(i) The Home Secretary issuing a certificate under section 2 of the 1996 Act authorising her removal from the United Kingdom to France as a third safe country for investigation of her claim for asylum under the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) and (1967) (Cmnd 3906) and

(ii) The immigration officer refusing her leave to enter and removing her from the United Kingdom to France.

The applicant, a Turkish citizen of Kurdish origin, arrived from Paris at Waterloo International Station on August 31, 1996 claiming political asylum. On September 1, the Home Secretary issued a certificate under section 2 of the 1996 Act authorising her removal to France.

Section 2(1)(a) of the 1996 Act enabled the Home Secretary to direct the removal of an asylum applicant if he had certified that, in his opinion, the conditions in section 2(2) were fulfilled.

Section 2 provides: "(2) The conditions are — (a) that the person is not a national or citizen of the country ... to which he is to be sent; (b) that his life and liberty would not be threatened in that country ... [for a Convention reason]; and (c) that the government of that country ... would not send him to another country ... otherwise than in accordance with the Convention.

"(3) This subsection applies to any country ... which is or forms part of a member state [of the European Union] ..."

Section 3 provides: "(2) A person who has been, or is to be, sent to a country ... to which section 2(3) above applies shall not be entitled to bring or pursue an appeal under this section so long as he is in the United Kingdom."

Mr Manjit Gill and Mr Asoka Dias for the applicant; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the Home Secretary.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the restriction on the right to appeal against the issue of a certificate under section 2(1) of the 1996 Act contained in section 3(2) could be one of substance.

If in fact the country to which a prospective appellant had been or was to be sent was a country which fully protected his Convention rights, then the need to leave the United Kingdom prior to appealing was not significant as in those circumstances there was little purpose in appealing.

If on the other hand that country did not protect his rights, then the value of the right of appeal exercisable only from abroad in practice was, likely to be highly speculative since such a country could well remove him from their territory before he had time to exercise his right of appeal to a special adjudicator in this country.

It was because of that restriction on the right of appeal that it was appropriate to challenge by way of judicial review the grant of a certificate of the secretary of state without first exhausting the process of appeal under section 3.

Prior to the 1996 Act, special adjudicators when determining appeals had indicated that they were not satisfied that France could be treated as a safe country.

The adjudicators had not been concerned about French substantive law. That did protect asylum seekers in accordance with the Convention. Their concern was as to the danger that when an asylum seeker was returned to France the asylum seeker would not be given an opportunity to have his position determined in accordance with French law as the Convention required prior to his being deported from France.

Special adjudicators in the course of their work acquired considerable experience of what happened in practice in different countries and as special adjudicators had come to the conclusion that the secretary of state was under an obligation to satisfy himself that either those decisions were, in his opinion, wrong or that since they had reached their decisions the position had changed for the better in France.

It was desirable to clarify the respective roles of the secretary of state and the courts now that the 1996 Act was in force. It was convenient to start with what an applicant for asylum would be required to establish if the secretary of state was considering the merits of an application for asylum.

In *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Sivakumaran* ([1988] AC 958, 994) Lord Keith of Kinkel had said: "There has to be demonstrated a reasonable degree of likelihood that he will be persecuted for a Convention reason if returned to his own country."

Basing himself upon that statement, Mr Pannick had submitted that the secretary of state was entitled to ask himself whether, in his opinion, there was a reasonable degree of likelihood that France would send the applicant to Turkey otherwise than in accordance with the Convention. The Divisional Court appeared to have accepted that submission.

Their Lordships did not accept Mr Pannick's adoption of a reasonable degree of likelihood test. That submission involved a lower threshold than that laid down by the Act.

Section 2 required the secretary of state to certify that the conditions in section 2(2) were fulfilled. The condition which was in issue was "that the government of [France] would not send [her] to another country ... other than in accordance with the Convention".

The language of the condition was unqualified. That was the statutory test. It was a test imposed as a requirement of overriding the protection against removal pending determination of an asylum claim which would otherwise be provided by section 6 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993.

Clearly it was necessary to treat the test as not being totally unqualified. It must be subject to the implication that it was permissible to grant a certificate when there existed a system which would, if it operated as it usually did, provide the required standard of protection for the asylum seeker.

No country could provide a system which was 100 per cent effective. There were going to be aberrations. All that could be expected and therefore all that Parliament could have intended should be in place prior to the grant of a certificate was a system which could be expected not to contravene the Convention.

What was required was that there should be no real risk that the asylum seeker would be sent to another country otherwise than in accordance with the Convention. The unpredictability of human behaviour or the remote possibility of changes in administrative law or procedures which there was no reason to anticipate would not be a real risk.

Mr Pannick had submitted that it was absurd to have one standard to be applied where the Convention was to be applied in this country and another test where the Convention was to be applied in another country.

However, their Lordships did not agree. In *Sivakumaran* the "reasonable degree of likelihood" test was laid down as an objective standard which an applicant for asylum status had to demonstrate in order to obtain protection.

If the complaint as to a safe country was as to the test it applied in determining whether there was a breach of the Convention, no criticism could properly be made of that country if it applied the same test as the UK applied in determining whether the asylum seeker had the necessary well founded fear.

However, where the criticism of the safe country was that the procedures were such that in practice there was a real risk that the applicant would never have an opportunity to demonstrate that there was a reasonable degree of likelihood that he would be persecuted if he was returned by the supposedly safe country then that was a different matter.

The reasonable degree of likelihood test was laid down so as not to place too heavy an obligation on the asylum seeker.

The asylum seeker had to comply with an objective test but one which was not absolute. Their Lordships did not see any reason for applying the same standard where what was at issue was whether an asylum seeker should be entitled to exercise his rights of appeal in this country or from a third country to which he was to be removed.

While in the majority of cases both tests might well lead to the same result that did not justify applying the wrong standard in the minority of cases where it would lead to the wrong result.

It was not suggested that the secretary of state had actually applied the wrong test as a matter of law. The identification of the right test was, however, necessary when considering whether the decision of the secretary of state was one to which he had been entitled to come on the material before him.

It was for the secretary of state to evaluate the material. If the secretary of state could properly come to the decision which he did on that material then the court could not interfere.

He was the person who had to form the opinion. However, in order to form the opinion, it was necessary for him to take such steps as were reasonable in the circumstances to acquaint himself with the relevant facts.

Their Lordships bore in mind Mr Gill's submission as to the inequality of the position of the asylum seeker as compared with that of the secretary of state. It was extraordinarily difficult for someone in the position of the applicant to show the secretary of state could not properly form the opinion that he stated that he did.

Indeed it would be impossible for the asylum seeker even to attempt to do so were it not for the commendable efforts which had been made by the Refugee Legal Centre to protect the position of asylum seekers. Despite very limited resources they had accumulated significant material.

Mr Gill, however, with some justification, pointed out it would not be unduly burdensome on the secretary of state to take more steps than he did at present to monitor what happened to asylum seekers who were returned to France.

As against that the evidence made it clear that the secretary of state did cause inquiries to be made in France.

The secretary of state based his opinion primarily upon:

1 France's commitment to a number of international conventions and agreements applying to asylum seekers;
2 An assessment of French laws and procedures;
3 Information from the director of Direction des Libertes Publiques des Affaires Juridiques and from the British liaison officer in Direction Centrale du Controle de l'Immigration et de la Lutte Contre l'Emploi des Cladestins as to the implementation of French laws and procedures in practice; and
4 A lack of evidence contradicting the secretary of state's opinion.

As to French domestic law, Mr Gill made no complaint. If the law properly operated, then an application for asylum by an applicant returned by this country to France should be appropriately considered by the Office Francais de Protection des Refugies et Apatrides (OFPRA). If OFPRA became properly seized of an application then it was accepted that there was no real risk of a contravention of the Convention.

What was criticised was the practice adopted by French officials within the prefecture. The effect of the complaints was that there had been a persistent history of officials ignoring requests for asylum and seeking to remove complainants on the basis of a failure to claim asylum when the applicant was previously in France.

The other matter was what happened to Mr Ali Iqbal. After Iqbal had travelled via France to London the secretary of state certified that his case was without foundation on the basis that France was a safe third country.

When he returned to France after his appeal had been dismissed officials at the Paris prefecture acted contrary to proper procedures so that his claim for asylum was ignored. Orders for removal were served, apparently in the absence of an interpreter, and attempts were made forcibly to place him in an aeroplane.

The only reason that he was not removed was that the captain of the plane refused to take responsibility for him so that his case received press publicity and he was subsequently allowed to claim asylum in France.

That was obviously a serious departure from proper standards but it had to be seen in the context of France having to deal with more than 20,000 asylum applications in each of the last 10 years. Furthermore, account had to be taken of the fact that the proportion of successful applications was higher in France than in any other member state.

Their Lordships had carefully considered all the material which had been placed before them and understood on the basis of that material the concerns of the special adjudicators.

However, their Lordships would emphasise the difference between the decisions of the special adjudicators and the responsibilities of the court. The special adjudicators on an appeal considered the material which was before them and made their own judgment as to the merits. The court's role was limited to that of review.

Approaching the question as one of review, their Lordships could not say that the secretary of state had not been entitled to come to the opinion that he did.

Having considered and rejected further grounds raised the court dismissed the appeal.

Solicitors: Bluett & Co, Edmonton; Treasury Solicitor.

Purpose of disqualifying directors

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Tjolle and Others

Before Mr Justice Jacob

[Judgment May 2]

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry should consider whether the public interest was served by pressing on with an application for the disqualification of a company director when the period of disqualification was likely to be low and the case had been significantly delayed through no fault of the respondent.

Any public interest involved in a disqualification might be outweighed by the de facto disqualification which was often the result of pending proceedings and the legal costs involved in going through with the procedure.

Mr Justice Jacob sitting in the Chancery Division so stated when dismissing the secretary of state's application for an order under section 6 of the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 against the third respondent, Diana Kenning. The first and second respondents to the application were Valere Nikolas Frederick Tjolle and Theresa Evelyn McDermott.

Mr Stephen Davies for the secretary of state; Mrs Kenning in person.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that *Land Travel Ltd, a holiday company*, went into voluntary liquidation in July 1992 with an *estimated deficiency in respect of* unsecured creditors of £12.4 million, *including £6.6 million of lost* deposits paid by members of the public for future holidays.

The Fraud Squad seized the company's records.

Mr Tjolle owned 999 and Mrs McDermott owned one of the 1,000 issued shares in the company's holding company. Following the appointment of liquidators and the bankruptcy of Mr Tjolle, he pleaded guilty to fraudulent trading and was sentenced to nine months imprisonment and disqualified from being a company director for 10 years.

The secretary of state was of the opinion that Mr Tjolle's conduct merited the maximum possible period of disqualification under the Act, namely 15 years.

His Lordship said that it was highly desirable that criminal courts should be aware of the sentencing guidelines laid down by the Court of Appeal in *In re Sevenoaks Stationers (Retail) Ltd* ([1991] Ch 164).

Civil and criminal courts should apply the same standards. The purpose of disqualification, to protect the public from the activities of those unfit to be concerned in company management, was the same in both courts.

The period of disqualification was perhaps not always seen as of major concern in a criminal trial where the defendant was also likely to be imprisoned. None the less it was important in the public interest.

It might also be important in the *defendant's interests to see that he* was in fact disqualified for an appropriate period. If he was *under-disqualified he might find* himself, like Mr Tjolle, on the receiving end of a civil application *by the secretary of state for which*, if he lost, he would have to pay costs.

The secretary of state rightly felt that in the public interest he should seek a longer period. Mr Tjolle consented to 15 years disqualification and paid agreed costs.

In July 1994 while criminal proceedings were still pending the secretary of state launched the current proceedings against the three respondents but proceedings were stayed, without Mrs Kenning's knowledge or consent, until April 1995.

After a pre-trial review and certain other preliminaries a trial date was set but when it became apparent the Mrs McDermott could not attend on that date separate trials were ordered.

Only Mrs Kenning, an employee of the company, was concerned in the trial before his Lordship. The case against her was based on the allegation that she was a de facto director.

It was said for the secretary of state that the procedural position was fundamentally unsatisfactory and that it was unlikely that the court would ever get at the truth with a split trial, the major consequence of which was that the evidence of one respondent could not be used against the other.

His Lordship did not agree. It was up to the secretary of state to make his case against any particular respondent. It was essentially for convenience that several respondents in a case were normally tried together, and it was entirely possible that one or more of them might decide not to contest the case.

The charges against Mrs Kenning had to be considered nearly *five years after the company's* demise and involved events as far back as 1990.

The delay could not in any way be laid at Mrs Kenning's door and in all the circumstances it was difficult to see what real public interest had been served by the case proceeding.

His Lordship thought that in some cases the secretary of state would do well to consider whether the public interest was really served by pressing on with cases which for some reason really no longer had a point.

The essential purpose of a disqualification order was to protect the public. Its incidental effects, particularly what was likely to be a heavy costs order, probably much higher than any fine in a criminal court, the stigma of an order, and its deterrent effect on others, were not the purposes of the legislation.

Moreover, proceedings under section 6 of the Act had to be commenced within two years of the company insolvency, except with leave of court. There was a clear statutory intention that the cases were taken to a conclusion quickly. It was hardly in accordance with that intention that, after they had been commenced they should be stayed against an individual who had not consented to that stay.

Having considered the charges againsMrs Kenning his Lordship said that even if she was to be regarded as a director of the company he was wholly unsatisfied that she conducted herself in a manner which made her unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

Solicitor: Osborne Clarke.

Warning for Lloyd's names

Phillips v Society of Lloyd's

In the interests of case management, Lloyd's names in dispute over acceptance of its reconstruction and renewal package should commence proceedings no later than May 16 to enable them to participate in *Society of Lloyd's v Colfox and Others* in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division (1997 Folio 131) and *Phillips v Society of Lloyd's* which were due to come before the court in the second half of June.

Mr Justice Colman so indicated in the Commercial Court on April 18 ordering that proceedings brought against Lloyd's by Timothy David Phillips be heard simultaneously with *Lloyd's v Colfox*.

HIS LORDSHIP said any other proceedings arising out of disputes between Lloyd's and other names not covered by those proceedings as to acceptance of reconstruction and renewal, or the consequences of acceptance of the package, including applications by Lloyd's for judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court ought to be determined at the same time as the *Colfox* and *Phillips* proceedings. He said provided such other proceedings were commenced by May 16 the court would facilitate their being heard at the same time as the *Colfox* and *Phillips* proceedings.

His Lordship directed provisionally *that during the week of June 9* any further summonses relating to the conduct of further proceedings *should be heard by the court and* directions could then be given to ensure that all matters between all parties concerned *and in dispute* over acceptance of reconstruction and renewal be decided at the same time in June.

Duty of expert witness

Sharpe v Southend Health Authority and Another

Although an expert witness in a medical negligence case might have acted differently from a medical practitioner, he should make it clear whether the defendant acted in accordance with a practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of practitioners *skilled in the relevant field*.

Mr Justice Cresswell so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division on April 25, when dismissing the claim of Tyrone Sharpe for negligence against the first defendant, *Southend Health* Authority, who were responsible for the Southend General Hospital.

The plaintiff's negligence claim against the second defendant, Bloomsbury and Islington Health Authority, who were responsible for University College Hospital, London, was withdrawn in the closing speech of the plaintiff's counsel.

HIS LORDSHIP said that a court might prefer one body of opinion to another but that was no basis for a finding of negligence.

He added that an expert witness should make it clear in his or her report, if it were the case, that *although the expert would have* adopted a different approach or practice, that he or she accepted *that the approach or practice* adopted by the defendant was in accordance with the approach or practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of practitioners skilled in the relevant field.

Power is exercisable retrospectively

Davy International Ltd and Others v Tazzyman and Others

Same v Durnig and Others

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Phillips

[Judgment May 1]

The power conferred on the High Court by Order 45, rule 7(7) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to dispense with service of a copy of an order under the rule if it thought it just to do so, was exercisable in respect of a mandatory order after the occurrence of events alleged to constitute a breach of that order, that is, retrospectively.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the fourth defendant, VAI Industries (UK) Ltd and the first respondent, Herbert Durnig, from the judgment of Mr Justice May on March 10 when, inter alia, he dismissed their applications to strike out the notice of motion of the plaintiffs, Davy International Ltd, Davy *Corporation Ltd and Trafalgar* House Services Ltd, which sought, inter alia, orders for sequestration of the assets of VAI and the first respondent's committal to prison.

Mr Alan Boyle, QC and Mr Paul Goulding for VAI and the first respondent; Mr Mark Cran, QC, Mr Alistair McGregor, QC and Mr Nigel Porter for Davy.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT *said that Davy was granted in* May 1996 an Anton Piller, search and seize, order in respect of VAI's *office premises in Poole, Dorset*. Parts of the order were mandatory requiring VAI to hand over listed *documents, and parts prohibitory* requiring it not to destroy certain documents.

The order did not have on its face the penal notice required by Order 45, rule 7(4). Davy alleged, inter alia, that documents were removed or destroyed, and that the affidavit sworn by the first respondent, *a director of VAI and resident* in Austria, was false in certain *respects. They then issued their* notice of motion which the judge refused to strike out.

The main point at issue was whether the court's power of dispensation of service, under *Order 45, rule 7(7), was exercisable* retrospectively or, as Mr Boyle contended, only prospectively, that *is, before the expiration of the time* limited for compliance with the particular order, the court being *bound by Lewis v Lewis* ([1991] 1 WLR 235) and *Denman v Temple* (unreported, May 9, 1991).

Mr Cran submitted the rule permitted retrospective as well as prospective dispensation, the court being bound by two earlier Court of Appeal decisions *Turner v Turner* ((1978) 122 Sol J 696) and *Hill Samuel & Co Ltd v Littaur* (*The Times* April 13, 1985).

His Lordship said that the *wording of rule 7(7) was general*. That pointed to the court's power not being confined in its operation *to a particular time*.

If it were not to be so construed, *the court would be unable to deal* with a party which was not served with the order during the period *for compliance deliberately refusing* to comply with an order made in its presence.

After considering the cases, his Lordship said that the *Turner* and *Hill Samuel* cases were binding on the court as establishing that rule 7(7) was not restricted to a prospective operation. It was established that the court was entitled to choose between conflicting authorities.

Those were the initial decisions and bound the later cases; they were not cited in the later cases and, if they had been, the courts would have been bound to reach the same conclusion; and they accorded with the proper construction of rule 7(7) in its context.

Lord Justice Phillips and Lord Justice Leggatt agreed.

Solicitors: Travers Smith *Braithwaite; Linklaters & Paines*.

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CHANGING TIMES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities: 1. King Edward VII Children's Convalescent Trust Fund
2. The Princess Mary Memorial Trust Fund
3. Victoria Convalescent Trust Fund
Scheme to amalgamate charities and appoint trustees
Reference: ALB-16844-CD(Ldn)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Crouch Chapman, 62 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BU or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

Public Notice

MERCHANT SHIPPING (ACCIDENT REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION) REGULATIONS 1994

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 6(4) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 1994, the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents has ordered an Inspector's Inquiry into the grounding of the container vessel CITA on 26 March 1997 off the Isles of Scilly, Cornwall.

Any persons who desire to make representations as evidence to the Inspector which would assist him in determining the circumstances and causes of the accident should write to the Inspector at the following address, no later than 14 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Marine Accident Investigation Branch
Department of Transport
5/7 Brunswick Place, Southampton,
Hampshire SO15 2AN

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
NO 00969 OF 1997
IN THE MATTER OF
SHEPHARD HILL CIVIL ENGINEERING LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27 March 1997 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above named company from £5,000,000 to £1,772,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the abovementioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 18 April 1997.
Dated this 9 May 1997
Eversheds, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4JL
Solicitors for the abovenamed Company

The Insolvency Act 1986
MAYFAYRE SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 20th May 1997 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 30th day of April 1997
By Order of the Board
A. Leighton, Director

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
NO 001048 OF 1997
IN THE MATTER OF
JARVIS NEWMAN LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 9 April 1997 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above named company from £2,000,000 to £651,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the abovementioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 18 April 1997.
Dated this 9 May 1997
Eversheds, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4JL
Solicitors for the abovenamed Company

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
NO 00968 OF 1997
IN THE MATTER OF
J JARVIS & SONS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27 March 1997 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the Company and of a reduction of the share capital of the above named company from £800,000 to £124,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the abovementioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 18 April 1997.
Dated this 9 May 1997
Eversheds, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4JL
Solicitors for the abovenamed Company

Sunvent Blind Service (London) Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 21st May 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 6th May 1997
D. Bush - Director

LEGAL NOTICES

HOLCOMBE HADLAGE LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Peter Lomas of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 6th May 1997.
Dated 6th May 1997
PETER LOMAS, Liquidator

WALTER REGINALD GROUP LIMITED

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985, that at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above named company held at 100, The Highway, London, E1 9BX on 30th April 1997, a Special Resolution was duly passed, approving a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring by redemption 157,000 redeemable preference shares, the amount of the permissible capital payment being £157,000.
The statutory declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company at 24 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HA.
Any creditor of the company may at any time within 5 weeks immediately following the date of the Resolution apply to the Court under Section 176, Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.
Basheer Ahmed, Director

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
GALILEO GROUP LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

I, W J H Elles of Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU hereby given notice that on 30 April 1997 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required, on or before 6 June 1997 to send in their full names and addresses and full particulars of their debts or claims to me and, if so required by notice in writing from me, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 30 April 1997
W J H Elles
LIQUIDATOR

N.B. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full, but if any persons consider they have claims against the company they should send in full details forthwith.

UNILEVER N.V.
DIVIDEND ON DUTCH CERTIFICATES OF Fl.1,000, Fl.100, Fl.20 and Fl.4
FOR ORDINARY CAPITAL ISSUED BY
N.V.NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR

Final dividend payments of Fl.4.75 per Fl.4 ordinary capital in respect of the year 1996 will be made on or after 23rd May 1997 against surrender of Coupon No. 20. Coupons may be encashed through one of the paying agents in the Netherlands or through Midland Securities Services ("Midland") at the address below; in the latter case they must be listed on the special form, obtainable from the Bank, which contains a declaration that the certificates do not belong to a Netherlands resident.

DUTCH DIVIDEND TAX relief is given by certain Tax Conventions *concluded by the Netherlands. A resident of a convention country will*, generally, be liable to Dutch dividend tax at only 15% provided the appropriate Dutch exemption form is submitted. No form is required from UK residents holding "K" certificates if the dividends are claimed from Midland within six months from the above date. If the certificates are owned by a UK resident and are effectively connected with a business carried on through a permanent establishment in the Netherlands, Dutch dividend tax at 25% will be deducted and will be *allowed as credit against Dutch tax payable on the profits of the* establishment. Dutch dividend tax on this dividend is Fl.1.1875 at 25% and Fl.0.7125 at 15%. The proceeds from the encashment of coupons through a paying agent in the Netherlands will be credited to a convertible florins account with a bank or broker in the Netherlands.

UK INCOME TAX *at the reduced rate of 5% on the gross amount will* be deducted from payments made to UK residents instead of at the lower rate of 20%. This represents a provisional allowance of credit at *the rate of 15% for the Dutch dividend tax already withheld*. No UK income tax will be deducted from payments to non-UK residents who submit an Inland Revenue Affidavit of non-residence in the UK.

A statement of the procedure for claiming relief from Dutch dividend tax and for the encashment of coupons, including names of paying agents and convention countries, can be obtained from Midland at the address below.

N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR
London Transfer Office, Midland Securities Services, Client Delivery,
Midland Bank PLC, Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA.
6th May 1997.

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E-mail: fee@lubs.leeds.ac.uk

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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An energetic and innovative manager is required for this new senior level College post, responsible for the management of finance, staff and premises, including teaching, *laboratory, residential and conference facilities. The successful candidate, who will have* excellent managerial, financial and interpersonal skills, will be expected to assist in *planning and managing a major expansion of the Colleg* which is a constituent College of the University of Durham.

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The appointment is *tenable from 1 August 1997 or as early as possible thereafter.*

Initial salary depending upon experience on ALC Grade 3 £23,000 - £28,000 per annum.

For an informal discussion of the post, please contact Mr J C F Hayward, *Principal of UCS, tel: 01642 335301 or e-mail: J.C.F.Hayward@Durham.ac.uk* or Dr S C Palmer, Head of Administration of UCS, tel: 01642 335324 or *e-mail: Stephen.Palmer@Durham.ac.uk*

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP (tel: 0191 374 7258, fax: 0191 374 7253 or e-mail: Acad.Recruit@durham.ac.uk).

Closing date: 2 June 1997. Please quote reference A664C.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

Master

The Fellows are proceeding towards electing a successor *(male or female)* to Prof. WJ Albery FRS, who demits office on 30th September 1997.

Anyone who might wish to be considered, or to make a suggestion or nomination, is invited to write in confidence to: The Senior Fellow, Dr GR Screaton, University College, Oxford OX1 4BH, preferably by 20th May 1997.

The College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

POSTS

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A dynamic professional with proven business skills required to lead the further development of Enterprise activities, business and community links, marketing, fund raising, TEC contracts, European/overseas activity and bid management.

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Application forms and further details are available from: *The Director of Personnel, Gloscat,* Park Campus, 73 The Park, Cheltenham, GL50 2RR. *Telephone: 01242 532181. Fax: 01242 532192.*

Closing date for applications: Monday 19th May, 1997.

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced teachers for posts of Technical and Trained Teachers in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, for the the 1997 / 1998 academic year, in the following subject areas:

SECONDARY SCHOOLS - BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF

SECONDARY EDUCATION (BGCSE) LEVEL

Technical Drawing/Woodwork
Electronics
Mathematics
Spanish
Music
Art & Craft
Auto Mechanics/ Small Engine Repair
Masonry
Home Economics

Applicants for posts in Secondary Schools should possess a degree and/ or teaching qualifications from approved institutions in the relevant areas. Successful applicants will be required to teach appropriate subjects up to The Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) standard (Grade 12).

Salaries of the posts are in the Scale s10 - $14,800 - $27,350 per annum.

Entry points on the Scale will be determined by qualifications and experience as follows:

(1)	*Trained teacher with Teacher Certificate only*	*- $14,800.00*
(2)	*Trained Technical Teacher with one(1) year post secondary special training at an accredited institution*	*- $17,900.00*
(3)	*Trained Teacher with Associate Degree*	*- $18,250.00*
(4)	*City of Guilds Final Technology Diploma or equivelant plus Teacher Training*	*- $20,000.00*
(5)	*Trained Teacher with Bachelor's Degree*	*- $20,000.00*
(6)	*Trained Teacher with Master's Degree*	*- $21,750.00*

Incremental credit will be given for a maximum of ten(10) years teaching experience at a ratio of one(1) increment for every two(2) years post-graduate experience.

Application forms may be obtained from The Bahamas High Commission, No. 10 Chesterfield Street, London W1X 8AH enclosing a SAE. Forms complete with copies of qualifications should be returned to the office of The High Commission not later than 16 May. 1997.

JESUS COLLEGE
Cambridge

Domestic Bursar

Salary in the range £31,228 to £34,198

The College intends to appoint a Domestic Bursar to take up his or her duties by 1 October 1997. The Domestic Bursar is *responsible to* College Council for the maintenance, restoration and modernisation of College buildings, for new building projects and for the provision of services and facilities needed to maintain and develop the College as a place of education, learning and research. Some College buildings have been in continuous use since its foundation in 1496, and others have been added in most subsequent centuries, including the new Quincentenary Library and Computer Centre.

Responsibilities of the Domestic Bursar, working with relevant heads of department, include:

- buildings and buildings maintenance
- *catering and housekeeping*
- conference and other revenue-producing external trade
- *security; and*
- gardens and grounds

It is essential that the Domestic Bursar possesses a wide-ranging understanding of, and is sensitive to, the academic purposes of the College. Leadership and personnel management, together with commercial acumen and negotiating skill and the ability to work with a consensus approach to decision-making are of prime importance.

The Domestic Bursar will be a Fellow of the College. The stipend for this full-time appointment will be in the range £31,228 to £34,198 (Steps 23 to 26 of the Universities General Scale of Stipends plus 3% thereof). The post carries eligibility to membership of the *Universities Superannuation Scheme.*

Further particulars may be obtained from Dr Paul Fisher FCA, Senior Bursar, Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL (facsimile 01223 339300), to whom applications, comprising a full curriculum vitae and a covering letter, should be submitted by 31 May 1997.

Jesus College is an equal opportunities employer.

POSTS

DEVELOPING HEFCE'S REGIONAL ROLE

The Higher Education Funding Council for England is raising its level of interaction with universities and colleges, and expanding its involvement in the regions. To this end it intends to make a number of new senior appointments. We are looking for experienced people with an understanding of higher education and of the Council's role within it, for two kinds of post:

REGIONAL CONSULTANTS

£30,000 to £50,000

Bristol based but with a significant travel commitment

The Council intends to appoint eight Regional Consultants with responsibility for managing the Council's relationship with universities, developing relationships with regional bodies and colleges and contributing to the development of the Council's national policies.

The weight of these posts will vary according to their specific responsibilities, with starting salaries to reflect this in the range indicated above.

We are looking for excellent communicators at ease with senior managers of universities and colleges, ready to act as broker with a wide range of regional bodies, and able to manage project teams. These are challenging opportunities for people who are interested in building on the achievements of universities and colleges in meeting national, regional and local needs.

Secondments from higher education institutions will be considered.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

£30,000 to £40,000

Bristol based

The Council intends to appoint an Operations Manager who will be *responsible for* managing the other Council staff who are involved with relationships with universities and colleges. The *main responsibilities are for allocating project responsibilities, developing* staff and monitoring their performance.

We are looking for an excellent people manager, prepared to take tough decisions while maintaining effective relationships with a wide range of colleagues. A good understanding *of the work of the Council is desirable.*

If you would like further information and an application form, please write to Zoa Amel, HEFCE, Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QD, or telephone our 24hr *answerphone on* 0117 931 7102 *or alternatively, visit our web site at* http://www.hefce.ac.uk/jobs/rsao-ad.htm

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EDUCATION

MICHAEL STEPHENS/PA

Labour's new education and employment team, left to right: Michael Bichard, Peter Shaw, Kim Howells, Estelle Morris, John Hedger, Stephen Byers, Alan Howarth, David Blunkett, Michael Barber, Andrew Smith, Baroness Blackstone, Roger Dawe and Nick Stuart

Labour's balancing act

John O'Leary examines the challenges facing the new team at the education department

Every school in England, state and independent, will receive a *letter from David* Blunkett next week, exhorting them to greater efforts to raise standards. The new Education Secretary will urge teachers to "set aside understandable scepticism" and join in a drive for improvement.

The initiative is intended to herald a new relationship with the teaching profession, where *morale is at a low ebb.* Thousands are leaving every term, many more would do so if they could afford it, and *good graduates to take their* place are thin on the ground.

After the tough talk and bright ideas of Opposition, Mr Blunkett is conscious that many in education see Labour as almost as prone to teacher-*bashing as the Tories. He will* need their help if Tony Blair's aims to create a world-class service are to be realised.

The letter, which is not being released in its entirety beforehand so that head teachers and governors get the message *first*, will *say*: "My intention is that we shall always consult and we shall be *setting up machinery to take* the views and respond to the suggestions of all those who feel that they have something *positive to offer, rather than* simply inviting submissions to the department."

Mr Blunkett adds: "We are *not* interested in dogma. Instead, we are committed to what works. We are interested in *standards, not structure.* We want to level up because we know that every school is doing something well and many are doing very well indeed. Our task is to ensure that *what has been available* to some is available to all."

But the conciliatory tone is hard to square with the promise of "zero tolerance of underperformance". On the same afternoon that Mr *Blunkett's letter was being* outlined, Stephen Byers, the Minister for School Standards, was turning *the spotlight back* on to failing schools, threatening to close those that *did* not improve.

> 'My intention is that we shall always consult'

The new team sees no conflict in the two approaches: competent teachers have nothing *to fear. But the* balancing act is one of several that will *have to* be carried off in the coming months. Labour's manifesto was short on detail in a *number of delicate areas,* some of which will require urgent attention. What exactly will happen to grant-maintained schools, *for example?* How will the Government respond to the Dearing review of higher education?

Perhaps the most urgent questions concern pre-school education, where the Govern*ment has pledged to issue no* more nursery vouchers but has guaranteed continuity for *all* four-year-olds who presently have them. With thousands more children turning four by *the start of the next school* year, there is little time to devise a replacement system.

Mr Byers called for a report on the problem even before making his statement on failing schools. It will be too late *to rescue the tens of thousands* of four-year-olds who have been crammed into unsuitable primary school re*ception classes, but* he cannot afford to ignore the playgroups and private nurseries which will have an important part to play in delivering Labour's promise of universal nursery provision in 18 *months' time.*

For all its inexperience in government, the new *ministerial* team has an almost unprecedented track record in its field. All five *education ministers have* taught, either in schools or higher education. Two have run education authorities and one a university college. Although now specialising in employment, Alan Howarth even finds himself back in the office he occupied as Higher Education Minister.

The presence of so many *familiar faces will reassure* some of those in education who felt that Labour's programme promised too little. But they will know that there is little Mr Blunkett can do in *the short term about the* funding pressures on schools, colleges and universities. The Conservative spending plans adopted by *Gordon Brown* allow for a worsening squeeze, with only infant schools anticipating an early boost from the abolition of assisted places.

Mr Blunkett has tried to dampen expectations by warn*ing of a £69 million "black hole"* in the budget for further education colleges, which he wants to play a key role in the welfare to *work programme.* The windfall tax should plug the gap, but other areas of the *education budget will have to* wait for Labour to fulfil its longer-term promise to devote a larger share of public *spending.*

University lecturers and vice-chancellors have already staked their claim, but only Sir Ron Dearing's *report, due out* in July, can provide the ammunition they need to alter the *Government's spending prior*ities. The review will provide the first test of policy-making beyond the manifesto, with tough decisions ahead *on the* size of the higher education system and the requirement for graduates to pay more towards their education.

The schools lobby will not be far behind in demanding *more money, but Mr Blunkett* will want to concentrate on measures that can be imple*mented without extra funding.*

There is *plenty of unfinished* business on target-setting, the curriculum, testing and as*sessment which can occupy* the *new team*, who will soon be busy drafting the June White Paper and with the even *more time-consuming task of* pushing through legislation.

There is plenty of scope for disagreement, meanwhile, if *next week's appeal* fails to convince teachers. The National Association of School*masters and Union of Women* Teachers has given a warning that its support does not extend to increasing a work*load that it already finds* unreasonable. Other groups are willing to give Labour the benefit of the doubt, but will expect Tony Blair's *rhetoric* about education, education and education to bear fruit *before long.*

Phil Revell on advice to schools about coping with asthma

When children cannot breathe

AS A child, Val Harrison went to school for half a day a week, if she was well *enough.* She did not attend school full-time until the age of 11. She spent frequent spells *in hospital and* came close to death on several occasions. And the disease which had *this devastating effect?* Asthma.

The Greeks recognised the condition 2,000 years ago, naming it "the panting attack". It is one of the *most common* ailments, with more than three million sufferers *in Britain. In schools,* the average class will have two or three cases, one in seven children of school age are diagnosed as having asthma.

About 1,600 people died of the condition in 1994. Most of these are *adult deaths, but more* than 150 children are admitted to hospital each day with asthma-related problems.

Val Harrison and her daughter Jade

These figures have prompted the National Asthma Campaign to *raise awareness in schools of asthma and* related problems. At a conference yesterday in Stoke-on-Trent, speakers from a range of disciplines addressed the kind of issues that schools *need to consider.* On the agenda were new Department for Education and Employment guidelines. If followed by *schools, they should reduce the stress for* children with asthma-related complaints.

Pauline Eldridge, a parent, feels that guidelines are overdue. Her two children, *Tony and Alex, have asthma that is easily* managed by inhalers. The problem comes at school where teachers have held the inhalers *centrally. "There have been several occasions* when Terry needed his inhaler in class and the teacher has said that he had to wait." Mrs Eldridge believes children should carry their *inhalers; the new advice now states: "Child*ren must have immediate access to their inhalers when they need them."

The situation arises from a lack of *awareness and from teachers' reluctance to* become involved in duties for which they have no training. Many worry about the *legal position should anything go wrong.*

At the conference these concerns were addressed by Chris Doak, a health and safety officer with Devon County Council. *His county has developed a policy based on* the campaign's framework and the DEE guidelines. Mr Doak feels that this anxiety is misplaced and that teachers have an impor*tant role to play in making* life easier and simpler for the asthma sufferer.

"Teachers need to be reassured that if they are operating under clear guidance and advice *they have the pro*tection of the law. There needs to be a clear statement from the employer," *Mr Doak says.*

There have been no cases where professionals *in loco parentis* have been sued successfully as a result of first aid or basic medical care given in good faith, but there have been cases where teachers have been taken to court for failing to act.

Paul Hanbury, *the* headteacher at Brookhouse Green Primary *in Stoke-on-Trent, says* that the approach schools need to adopt is "very simple". His own children are asthma sufferers and a friend lost a child to asthma. He believes that schools have a responsibility to act. "I see the *child in a holistic* way. I am as interested in their physical well-being as I am in their educational attainment. The two are related." Mr Hanbury believes that the curricu*lum should include more time on health* matters. "What's more basic than learning how to handle your own health?" he says.

Mr Hanbury's school has an asthma *register. Children are encouraged to carry* their inhalers and spares are kept within reach. The inhalers follow the children on to *the playing fields and are taken on trips.*

THIS approach was commended by Bob Wilson, a consultant and asthma specialist *based at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in* Shropshire. The child's inhaler needs to be immediately available, "less than one minute away". *Mr Wilson believes that* asthma deaths are "almost wholly preventable", and that very simple training would enable teachers to deal with attacks with confidence.

He has little patience with "alternative" approaches. A view shared by Ms Harrison who, as a child, was prescribed "a regime of exercise, heat ray treatment, swimming and playing a *wind instrument*". Her asthma settled down in her teens about the same time as the first broncho-dilators became available. *Her condition worsened again* after the birth of her children. Her eldest daughter, Jade, developed asthma "despite all I could do to prevent it by breast feeding, *monitoring of her diet and so on.*" Val gave Jade responsibility for her inhaler as soon as possible and she feels that most primary age children could cope with the responsibility. *She says: "Teachers with asthmatics in their* class should be made aware of what to do if a child has an attack."

Am I for the scrapheap?

A lecturer reveals how research rankings have threatened his job

In the next few weeks my university will vote on a plan *to restructure* academic departments. This is the direct result of December's research assessment *exercise.*

Initially, it was thought that we had done rather well. There was great rejoicing. The vice-chancellor sent out an *official memo* congratulating staff on their performance. Unfortunately, our competitors had done even better. *Less* than a *month later, when* the *Government* issued the financial allocations, it became clear that the university was heading for a *massive deficit.*

The *administration* decided that more than 40 academic posts must be lost. Just before the spring holiday, a draft for restructuring was issued. *Whole departments* were to disappear. Panic ensued. Ashen-faced dons clustered in corridors; e-mails proposing *rescue schemes circulated;* the Association of University Teachers issued warnings about strike action.

University *officials empha*sised that the draft plan was not a final statement and that modifications would be considered. Nonetheless, speed *was of the essence.* The administration says that it wishes to meet its target only through voluntary redundancies, *but it has not ruled out* compulsion should it prove necessary.

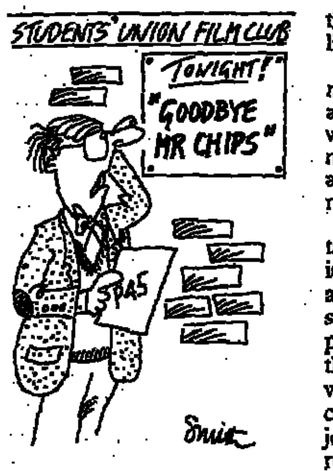
Academics are notoriously bad at changing careers. Who would want a 50-year-old classicist who is the greatest living expert on Plato's use of the article? The spectre of compul*sory redundancy* has haunted us all. Who would be the unlucky ones? Would it be those on short-term contracts? We all *wished* it would be someone other than ourselves.

Yet, from a legal point of view there is a simple answer. *Since its foundation,* my university has granted staff life tenure. This was to ensure complete academic freedom. No one *could be dismissed* for having the "wrong" opinions.

The conditions of service are explicit: the tenure for all academics *is to extend to the* age *of retirement.* All those appointed to permanent positions who have passed the required probationary period are entitled *to remain* in the *post* until the age of 67, according to the original university statutes.

This does not *mean, how*ever, that all academics are safe. In 1987, Parliament passed a law that allows for tenure to be withdrawn *from all individuals* appointed to university posts after November 1987, or from those who have had a change in contract from *that date. This,* in effect, *meant* those who were promoted to a higher grade. Thus, everyone who moved up from lecturer level to senior lecturer or beyond would lose tenure, *so long as they were, being* paid more as a result.

After this law was passed, an official governmental commission was instructed to change the royal charters of all universities. The rules of redundancy were altered, enabling universities to remove *non-tenured staff from those* departments which were being closed for financial reasons.



This means that there are now two classes of academic: those who have retained life tenure because *they were appointed* before November 1987 and have had no change in contract since, and those appointed or pro*moted after that date.*

The acute observer will realise that, in some cases, those who are elderly and who were *promoted* before 1987, as well as those who failed to make the grade, are the ones with life tenure.

The bright young things, the *new vigorous appointments* and the dynamic researchers whose talents have been recog*nised through advancement,* are the ones who are now at risk.

The administration has not taken steps to inform academics of their legal rights; after all, it is not in its interest to do so. *New appointments and* promoted staff want to conceal the facts in the hope that they will be safe and the AUT is *committed to protecting the* jobs of all academic staff regardless of their contractual status.

In the end, however, my university will be compelled to recognise this distinction. Staff on short-term contracts cost nothing to *dismiss. The dons* who can be made redundant are entitled to receive only one week's salary for every year that they have been employed *in the system. But* it could cripple any university to make staff with life tenure redundant. There is the possibility *that someone aged 50, who is* earning about £28,000 a year, could cost as much as £500,000 to remove because *technically they are owed their* remaining lifetime salary. No institution can face the risk of such a bill.

In the end, tenure *will* protect those who were fortunate enough to obtain it, despite the wish of the administration *to dismiss* those whom it no longer wants to employ.

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FOOTBALL

Leicester benefit from O'Neill's singular approach

By Our Sports Staff

MATT ELLIOTT, the scorer of the goal that ensured *Leicester City's survival* in the FA Carling Premiership, has identified the unorthodox management style of Martin O'Neill as *one of the principal* reasons for the club's success in confounding pre-season expectations.

Elliott, signed from Oxford United in January, finally ended lingering relegation fears around *Filbert Street* with the winning goal against Sheffield Wednesday on Wednesday night.

It completed a memorable season for the East Midlands club, which had been widely tipped to make an instant return *to the Nationwide* League first division — just as it had in 1994-95.

Elliott was ineligible for the *Coca-Cola Cup final victory* over Middlesbrough, but played a prominent part in the Premiership campaign and *praised the innovative work of* O'Neill.

"He works exceptionally hard and his enthusiasm for the game is second to none," he said. "He's been there, seen it and done a lot. You listen to what he has to say. He's got a certain style of management which is different to what I've *seen before.*

"He is a bit unorthodox. He plays a few mind games with *you here and there.* He is very clever — probably a bit too clever for the players. But all round you can't say anything *about him.*

"All the lads would like his future to be resolved and personally I think it will be. I *hope he stays and the club* will be desperate to keep him if they can. I am sure that other clubs would be interested in *him as well if he became* available.

"Everyone in the area has got great respect for him as *have everyone at the club.* He deserves it because he's done such a great job here and he hasn't finished it yet."

O'Neill himself said that the widespread expectation of immediate relegation had acted as a massive incentive to him and the players. "The fact that we were written off by everybody kept us going," he said.

"No one gave us a chance, except for some paper in Bulgaria who said we would stay up. I am going to write to him and say thanks. I think he must be a very good tipster because he said that Manchester United would win the league championship and Bury the second division.

"It's going to be fantastic now to be able to go to Blackburn on Sunday for a final game. It doesn't feel right *somehow.* I will be able to relax for the first time. I am going to wear a suit and sit with the chairman in the directors' box. I am not saying that I won't go near the bench, but I certainly won't start there."

And, referring to the remark by Graeme Souness, his Southampton counterpart, that he should wear a suit *rather than a tracksuit* and calm down while on the bench he said: "I might just as well see if Graeme Souness is right.

"The good *thing is that* we have stayed up on our own merit. This season has been a great experience and everyone *has loved every minute of it,* from our youngsters like Stuart Campbell right through to our old warhorse Steve *Claridge, who has enjoyed his* first year in the Premiership.

"We did go into the unknown. We were wondering how we were going to cope with the top flight, but eventually we have not only done well but I also think that we have been a *credit* to the Premiership without going over the top about things.

"I would say it has been enjoyable hard work. Just to be in the Premiership with the players we have got has been very enjoyable — but the enjoyment now comes from *the fact that we are staying up.* The lads have been saying that they felt more tired this season with less games than last *season because there is more* pressure in the Premiership."

European football is the next milestone for Leicester *and Elliott said: "The chance* of playing in Europe has also been a long time coming. I've talked to the wife and friends and we've had a giggle over the fact I could be playing in the Uefa Cup but I want to make the most of the chance."

Whitby promise show of colour in Vase final

By Walter Gammie

DWINDLING crowds at recent finals have put the pressure on Whitby Town and North Ferriby *United* to produce a *memorable* FA Carlsberg Vase contest at Wembley tomorrow.

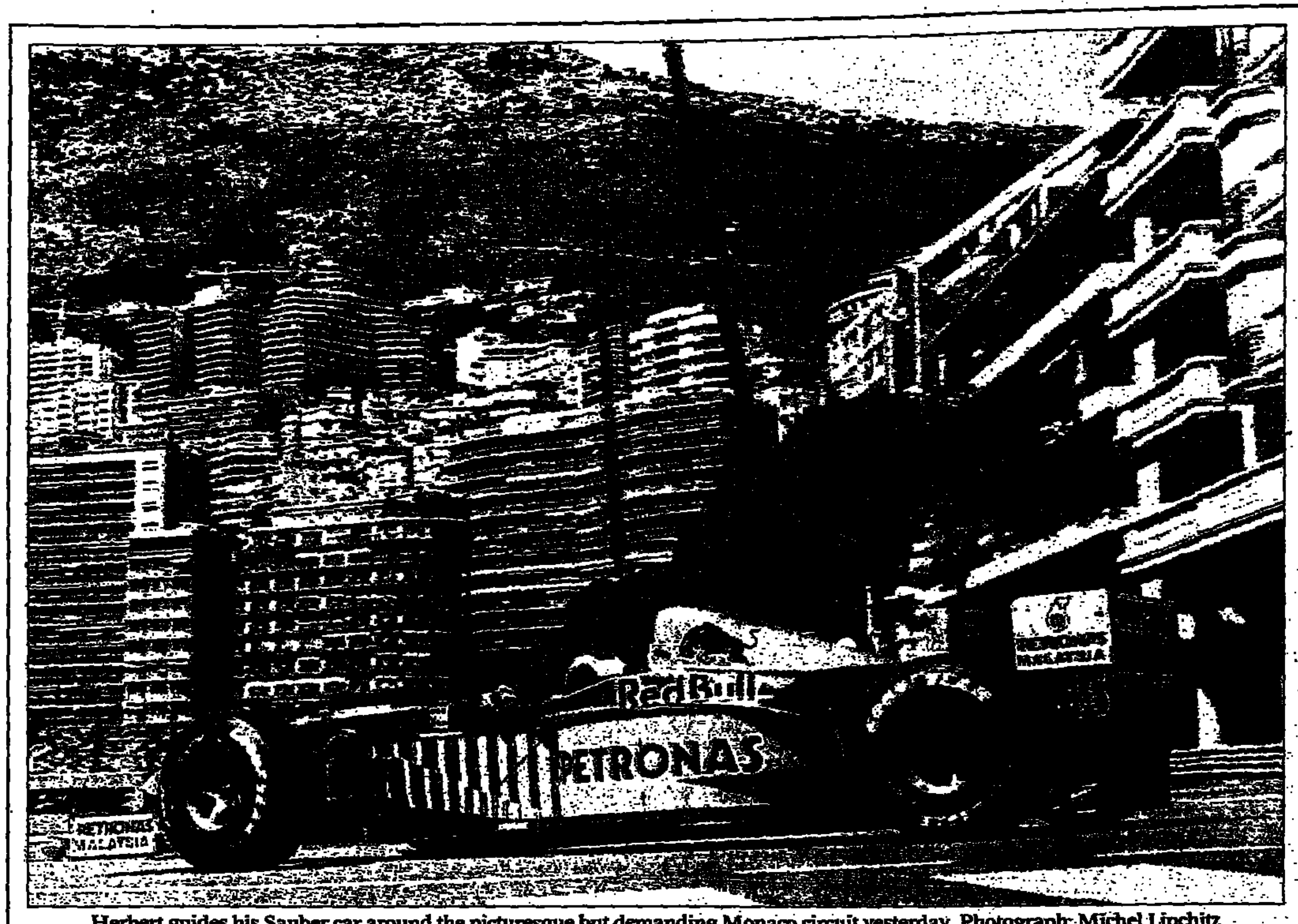
Harry Dunn, the manager *of the Whitby side that has* swept to the Federation Brewery Northern League championship, with 99 points and 130 *goals from their 38 match*es, said: "There has been talk of taking the final away from Wembley, so it's up to both *teams to show we're good* enough to be there.

"We've had a fine season and played some good football, *so we're going to go out* there to play our game, not seek to stifle them or anything like that. I'm sure they'll do the *same and I think it'll produce* a good final."

By coincidence, the weekend its football followers leave for *London is the one on which* the world is descending on the Yorkshire port to see the replica of *Endeavour*, Captain James Cook's ship, set off on its commemorative voyage. "Win or lose, rain or shine, we'll have an open-top bus ride on Sunday, when we expect 50,000 or 60,000 people to be in the town," Dunn said.

If Whitby do return with the trophy, it will be little surprise if the long-serving Paul "Yakka" Pitman is among the goalscorers. "He only got 54 this season — it was 60 last year," Dunn said. "Mind you, he's been injured for the past two weeks. He tried to kick the Bedlington *centre half's head* and came off worse, but he trained on Tuesday and he will be fit."

North Ferriby have, in Andy Flounders, Darren France and Mark Tennison, formidable firepower of their own. Flounders *will be seeking to collect a* second successive Wembley winner's medal as he tries to ensure that North Ferriby, *from Hull, keep the Vase in* Northern Counties East League hands, after helping Brigg Town to victory last year.



Herbert guides his Sauber car around the picturesque but demanding Monaco circuit yesterday. Photograph: Michel Lipchitz

Monaco still streets ahead of rest

Rob Hughes savours the unique atmosphere as Formula One motor racing rolls into Monte Carlo

From the Hotel de Paris in Monaco yesterday, guests who had paid £3,000 for three days and nights in *Europe's smallest principality* indulged in their annual addiction to moneyed madness. Down in the streets below their balconies, the *fragrance of perfume became pollut*ed by the fumes of high-octane petrol; the tranquility and the elegance of Monte Carlo were torn away by the *shrieks of Formula One engines* producing 750 horse-power, which men attempted to drive at approaching 150mph around the lampposts *and the kerbstones. Ludicrous,* yet thrilling in the same breath.

Monaco's ruler, Prince Rainier, styles himself His Serene Highness. *Serenity is out of the window while* the Formula One circus is in town. After the first, unofficial practice session yesterday, an Englishman, Johnny Herbert, was fastest of the 22 entrants. He assumes little, this good-natured, competitive man from Essex. He knows that tomorrow, when practice officially decides the grid *positions,* is the time to make his Sauber Petronas lead the field, for at Monaco, above all places, he who leads on the grid stands *little chance* of being overtaken.

You have to be here to appreciate the obsession of it all. Beneath *buildings of cream and marvellously appealing architectural design,* the roads, the harbour and the tunnel are ringed with steel, for their protection and that of the drivers. It will *look a* picture on television, which is why the principality — with all its moneyed residents — needing tourism *like anywhere else, forfeits its life*style for this one week in May.

The talk in every motor home is of adjustments to the cars. Damon Hill *gives the opinion that Monaco places* such unique stresses on the machinery that it would be more practical to design entirely different cars simply *for the event. Instead, every team,* some spending £20 million per car per season, attempts to modify the aerodynamics, to do everything in its *power to rebalance the cars and give* them effective traction and down-thrust.

Yet the re-aligning of cars can be seen as secondary to the rebalancing and preparation of the humans who put their lives at risk over 78 laps of the circuit, two hours of high-speed racing, 136 unrelenting miles that test their reflexes, ability and powers of concentration to the hilt.

This year, the revving up of egos, the quest of man and machine, has quite palpably *a divide between the* men and the boys. Hill, seeking to justify himself on the circuit that *established* the reputation of his father, Graham, is 36. Gerhard Berger, the Austrian, is going on 38 and started grand-prix racing in 1984, when some of the boy racers he competes against now were in short pants. There are five of them in their very early 20s, the youngest, at 20, being *Ralf Schumacher, the image of* his older brother, Michael.

None of them, yesterday, had occasion to visit the Princess Grace *Hospital. Indeed, the only shunt was* Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the winner of the previous grand prix at Imola, who simply pushed too hard and ran *out of road. Nothing injured but* pride. Frentzen will be back in the Williams-Renault tomorrow and, hopefully, on Sunday.

Happier than him, and more content than most, was Herbert. He raced around in *1min 21.188sec,* more than two seconds faster than his qualifying time a year ago. Though there were *nine cars,* including a relieved Hill, within nine-tenths of a second of his time, Herbert had never before enjoyed a practice session faster than all competitors.

"I didn't realise until I was going up the hill what a *nice* lap it was," Herbert, 32, remarked. He is practising for his 101st grand prix and has known the nectar of victory at the *British Grand Prix at Silverstone* in 1995, but he kept his drive in perspective yesterday. "We had done a lot of work in Barcelona last week, getting the set-up spot on, and the car has improved very much," he said. "The trouble is, coming first on free practice doesn't mean anything. *I'll* have to do it on Saturday really to set myself up for the race."

Nevertheless, Jean Todt, the director of Ferrari, was quick to congratulate the *Sauber* team. Ferrari's own Michael Schumacher was second, a blink of an eye behind Herbert, but Ferrari have two special reasons to *want to get this one right. Sunday* is the fiftieth anniversary of Enzo Ferrari's invention of the mystical scarlet car and the last time Ferrari was *king of the road at Monte Carlo* was in 1981. Moreover, the emerging Sauber is powered by engines designed and manufactured at *Maranello by Ferrari.*

Hill has yet to finish a race in his Arrows car this season and yesterday, responding to the probing of *journalists trying to propel him into* another car next year, he insisted: "I am focused solely on Arrows this season. I'm considering all possibilities beyond this season, *but what do* you want me to do, contribute to the silly season? I enjoyed today, the satisfaction of driving the Arrows to its fullest, getting what I can out of the car. That is the challenge to a racing driver . . . but I've certainly got an unwieldy beast this year."

And he smiled, the resigned smile *of a man who is under threat of a one-*race ban should he lose patience at the wheel again as he did at Imola. Man, and machine, need controlling.

CYCLING

Yates back in the old routine

SEAN YATES, a time-trial stage winner in the 1988 Tour *de France, just cannot stop* racing, although he ended his 16-year career on the Continent last season (Peter Bryan writes). *His impact on domestic trials* this season has been an eye-opener — nine starts and nine victories, at the age of 37.

Yates will bid for his first national title since 1980, when he was an amateur, in the British ten-mile championship on Sunday at Barton-on-Humber, which will follow the *women's title trial on* a Norfolk race course on Saturday.

The men's event had promised to be a cracker — until *Graeme Obree's entry* was refused because of its late arrival. However, although the Scot, the British record-*holder at the distance* with a time of 18min 27sec, will be absent, Rob Hayles, the defending champion, is compet*ing and will be the last man to* start in a field of 120.

SAILING: EXPERIENCED ALL-WOMAN CREW PREPARES FOR ATTEMPT ON CIRCUMNAVIGATION RECORD

Edwards ready to take on the world

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

ONE of the best-funded projects in world sailing got under way in earnest yesterday with the *formal renaming* of *ENZA New Zealand* as *Royal & SunAlliance* and the presentation by Tracy Ed*wards of the core crew with* which she will attempt to break the record for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation.

When the sponsor is one of the world's top ten general insurance companies and the *project budget is £4.27 million,* you can afford a bit of razzmatazz. Pete Goss performed the naming ceremony at Ocean *Village in Southampton* amid fireworks, champagne and piped operatic music.

It was a high-profile launch *of a project that* has every prospect of capturing the public imagination. Edwards will set off for New York in two *days to prepare for an attempt* on the transatlantic record for multihulls of just over 6½ days, held by *Jet Services 5.*

After that, Edwards will try for the round-Britain and Ireland record of just under six days, set by Steve Fossett, of the United States, on the *trimaran, Lakota.* Then, in the new year, she will set off on her historic attempt to capture the *Jules Verne Trophy* for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation.

The record is still held by Sir *Robin Knox-Johnston and Sir* Peter Blake, who got round on *ENZA* in 74 days and 22 hours in 1994. However, the Frenchman, Olivier de Kersauson, on the 90ft trimaran, *Sport-Elec,* appears to be on the verge of bettering it by up to three days as he continues his way back up the Atlantic at the end of a voyage during which he has averaged 362 miles a day.

Edwards's multinational crew is made up of experienced sailors, most of whom are in their thirties. In addition to Edwards, there are two other former members of the *Maiden* crew — Jo Gooding, of Great Britain, and Michele Paret, of France — and two former members of the Elle Racing syndicate for the Whitbread race — Vanessa *Dudley, from Sydney,* and Emma Westmacott, from Hertfordshire. Also included are Helena Darvelid, of Sweden, who crewed for Fossett on *Lakota.* Lisa *Charles,* an America's Cup sailor and the only American on board, and Emma Richards, from Scotland, the youngest at 22.

Edwards is still looking for two more crew members, but *believes that she has found the* right balance in her main team. "We've got youth, strength, intelligence, common sense and calmness," she said. She dismissed her mainly male critics, who claim that an all-woman crew will be lucky *to survive on the* 92ft catamaran when the going gets tough.

"Men can continue to express scepticism about women's sailing," Edwards, the first to skipper an all-woman Whitbread entry, said. "We'll just have to carry on taking on harder projects to prove them wrong." Edwards knows that ENZA's record will be hard to beat, let alone an even faster time by de Kersauson, but she is convinced that she and her crew are capable of doing it.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Edwards leads the celebrations at the launch of her Jules Verne Trophy bid

JUDO

Encouraging start for British fightback

By John Goodbody

THE British team, which is desperate to regain self-esteem after failing to get any medals at the *Olympic Games* in Atlanta last year, moved some way towards that ambition yesterday. On the first day of the *annual European championships* in Ostend, three of the four women competitors reached the semi-finals, while another, *Kate Howey, the* 1992 Olympic middleweight bronze medal-winner, qualified for the repechage. One man, the bantamweight, *Jamie Johnson,* also got into the repechage and so has a chance of *finishing* third.

Colin McIver, the British team manger, said: "The girls were just excellent. They were really *up for it. It was most* pleasing. The men were less fortunate, but some still did quite well."

Joyce Heron, the tiny Scottish bantamweight, who won a bronze medal at the 1993 world championships, defeated *Laura* Moise, of Romania, with a decisive *knockdown* reversing their result in the 1996 European championships.

Chloe Cowan, at light heavyweight, was responsible for one of the biggest upsets by *also scoring a knockdown* on Estha Essombe, a highly experienced French competitor.

At heavyweight, Michelle *Rogers beat another* French opponent, Celine Lebrun, and will now meet Beata Maksymow, of Poland, who *weighs in at 120kg, for a place* in the final.

Howey, 23, who has dropped back down from *light-heavyweight to middle*weight since the Olympics lost her crucial bout to Yvonne Wansart, of Germany, but still has a good chance of finishing with a medal.

Howey was unable to upset Wansart with *her famous morote-gari,* which looks like a frontal rugby tackle, in which she scoops up her opponent's legs.

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BT

RUGBY UNION: WORLD CUP-WINNER READY FOR FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Leicester look to Stransky to play the pivotal role

David Hands finds a player returning to the stage he deserves at Twickenham

You would suppose that the man who dropped the goal that won the World Cup might have been able to write his own passport to a happy and successful future. In fact, it took Joel Stransky little more than 14 months to understand that he had little or no future in the South Africa national team and that he should seek employment elsewhere.

"When it was suggested to me that Joel might be available, I was flabbergasted," Bob Dwyer said. "To me, he is one of the two complete fly halves in world rugby — Andrew Mehrtens is the other." Neither Dwyer nor Peter Wheeler, respectively director of rugby and chief executive of Leicester, needed to be persuaded that Stransky might be the missing cog in the Leicester works that will see them close a turbulent season in the Pilkington Cup final against Sale at Twickenham tomorrow.

It will be a bitter-sweet occasion for the South African: sweet, because Stransky, 29, is a professional sportsman who has found acceptance in a foreign environment and has helped his adopted club to within sight of a trophy in only four months; bitter, because the passionate atmosphere invoked by the 75,000 crowd at Twickenham can only stir memories of that June day in 1995 when Stransky, Francois Pienaar and their colleagues became world champions.

Stransky's fall from grace in his native land is, in a sense, a tale of South Africa's failure to capitalise on the national euphoria evoked by the 15-12 extra-time victory over New Zealand at Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg. First, the management team broke up and then Stransky found himself the target of a smear campaign, with whispered innuendoes of misbehaviour.

Stransky's fervent denial cut little ice with André Markgraaff, the new coach and manager to the national team, who was forced to resign himself earlier this year, accused of racial abuse. "He told me I had been involved in a disgusting sideshow," Stransky said; at the same time, the necessity for dental surgery prevented him playing for six weeks and his omission from the South Africa tour party to Argentina, France and Wales last autumn convinced him that a change of environment was necessary.

Stransky makes no bones about the benefits he has enjoyed from rugby, even before its official professionalisation in August, 1995. The game took precedence when he was at university in Durban, he discovered exciting possibilities with Cahors in France and the Italian clubs, L'Aquila and San Dona, and the financial structures that operated within South African rugby have long been acknowledged.

Now he is at Leicester. He had an offer from Racing Club in Paris and met representatives from Harlequins, but personal experience of the family atmosphere at Welford Road helped convince him that he could rediscover his enjoyment in the game in the Midlands.

"I had no preconceptions about rugby in England. I expected it to be tough and challenging and it has been. What rugby boils down to is communication, understanding what players want from each other and that hasn't been hard because the Leicester pack has gone so well.

"I'm comfortable with the decision-making that playing fly half involves. It helps me that I played centre and wing when I was younger. It's a natural position, it's like being a striker in football — these guys who score goals have the instinct."

Stransky's ability to decide where the ball will go, apart from earning him the No 10 shirt initially with Northern Transvaal before spells with Natal and Western Province, also brought him 23 appearances for South Africa and 240 international points. Leicester have only started to appreciate the skills he brings to the game. The most obvious is his sheer points-scoring ability: in 14 appearances, he has registered 186 points, 101 of them in the eight full league games in which he has played. He has a strike rate of 75 per cent, but he is far more, as Dwyer suggests, than a kicking pivot: he gives a game tactical direction and it is his willingness to pull in opposing back-row forwards that can create opportunities for his centres.

His joust with Simon Mannix, Sale's New Zealander, will be integral to the fate of the Pilkington Cup.

DAVID ROGERS/ALLSPORT

Stransky has added class to Leicester's colours this season

Baldwin climbs to prominence

BY DAVID HANDS

THE England management team will meet tomorrow to finalise the replacements required for the party to tour Argentina, which leaves on May 18. Both their middle-of-the-line jumpers, Martin Bayfield and John Fowler, are unavailable because of injuries and the revisions may include players who oppose each other in the Pilkington Cup final.

Both Dave Baldwin, the Sale lock forward, and Matt Poole, of Leicester, have been told to stand by and, were they to be required in Argentina, the wheel would have gone full circle for both. Poole was a member of the England side that went to Buenos Aires in 1990, without winning a cap, and Baldwin has not toured with an England team since visiting New Zealand with England B in 1992.

Poole, 28, also toured South Africa in 1994, but Baldwin, 30, has not even made an appearance for England A in the past five years, though he remains one of the outstanding technicians in English club rugby. On the other hand, the selectors may wish to consider the claims of younger players, such as Rob Fidler, of Gloucester, or Chris Murphy, of West Hartlepool.

Geoff Cooke, the Bedford director of rugby, has applauded the play-off system introduced this season, even though his club's hopes of promotion to the Courage Clubs Championship first division took a blow on Wednesday. Bedford will play the second leg at Bristol on Sunday with a nine-point deficit, after losing 20-11, but Cooke believes that it has given second-division clubs a valuable incentive, of which Coventry took immediate advantage by beating London Irish 16-14 in the first leg.

"It has given everyone something extra to play for," Cooke said. "I'm sure the first-division clubs don't like it, but it gives us an unexpected chance of the big time." He has received assurances from Frank Warren, the Bedford owner, that resources will be available to recruit during the summer, although on Sunday they will be without Rudolf Straeuli, the South African back-row forward, who ruptured an Achilles tendon against Bristol.

SPORTS LETTERS

Hereford have point of return

From Professor C. Bamforth

Sir, The furore over the survival of Brighton in the Football League, with the attendant relegation of Hereford United to the Conference, bewilders me. Naturally, one applauds Brighton for their astonishing feat, seemingly achieved against extreme adversity. Obviously, too, one sympathises with Hereford, as one does with any club that has finished bottom of its division. One thinks warmly of this club for various reasons, not least its past contribution to FA Cup giantkilling.

However, Hereford will not be embarking on (and Brighton have not been saved from) some twilight world of third-rate football, populated by also-rans and ne'er-do-wells. The Conference is merely one step down the soccer pyramid, and hardly represents more significant a downturn than relegation from any of the divisions of the Football League. Even if Hereford continue to plummet, as did the likes of Southport, Barrow and Workington before them, they will find a world of football that is a joy and from which it is perfectly possible to return.

There is only one true chasm in the world of English football and that is between the Premier League and the Football League. The divide is characterised by a discontinuity in fiscal reward and exposure, to a degree far surpassing that occurring beneath this competition, right the way through the leagues.

The Premier League stands apart as being closer to the world of entertainment. I contend that sporting values and genuine pleasure in the game of football for its own sake exist in inverse proportion to the status of a league in the footballing pyramid.

Hereford will find a quality of football hardly discernible from that which they have left, but, more importantly, they will encounter good spirit in refreshing new surroundings.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. BAMFORTH,
Vincent House,
Wisborough Green,
West Sussex.

Empty Saturdays

From Mr Jeremy Hill

Sir, The English cricket season is now being firmly wagged by the tail: to avoid the disruption of the Axa Life League in the middle of Britannic Assurance championship games means that the latter must start on Wednesdays, giving even less genuine cricket for the weekend spectator. Even the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the knockout competitions are in midweek, so requiring the working population to take holiday. Why could these not be played on a Saturday, with Sunday league games being moved, just as they are for the final?

The presence of overseas players continues to be a thorny issue. To play alongside the likes of Allan Donald and Wasim Akram is of enormous benefit for young English players, and there was a noticeable improvement in the ability to deal with Anil Kumble's variations once they had been on show for a season. However, to give the likes of Jacques Kallis and Mohammad Akram experience of our conditions must run counter to the aims of the English team. I would propose a minimum of 30 Tests for any overseas signing to avoid our giving valuable experience to international opponents.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY HILL,
96 Crabtree Lane,
Harpenden,
Hertfordshire.

Through the hoop

From Mr Justin Green

Sir, I must disagree with the comments of Max Mosley, head of the world automobile federation, that the world prefers football to basketball (report, May 2). Does he appreciate the technical brilliance, the athleticism and the need to win? All NBA teams have to play 80-plus games in a season; their only break is the All-Star weekend, where the top players still have to play one game or at least compete in the slam dunk competition.

Basketball is all about tactics and a game plan, similar to Formula One. The pit-stops are time-outs, grandly taken at the most opportune moments. The tyre change is the substitution of different players. The excitement of Formula One matches basketball, where you don't get many 0-0 draws.

Jack Nicholson takes time off from filming whenever the Los Angeles Lakers play at home, so, for around 40 days of the season, production stops for five men running around like headless chickens and throwing balls at hoops.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN GREEN,
Grafton House, Conduit Road,
Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

Beyond city limits

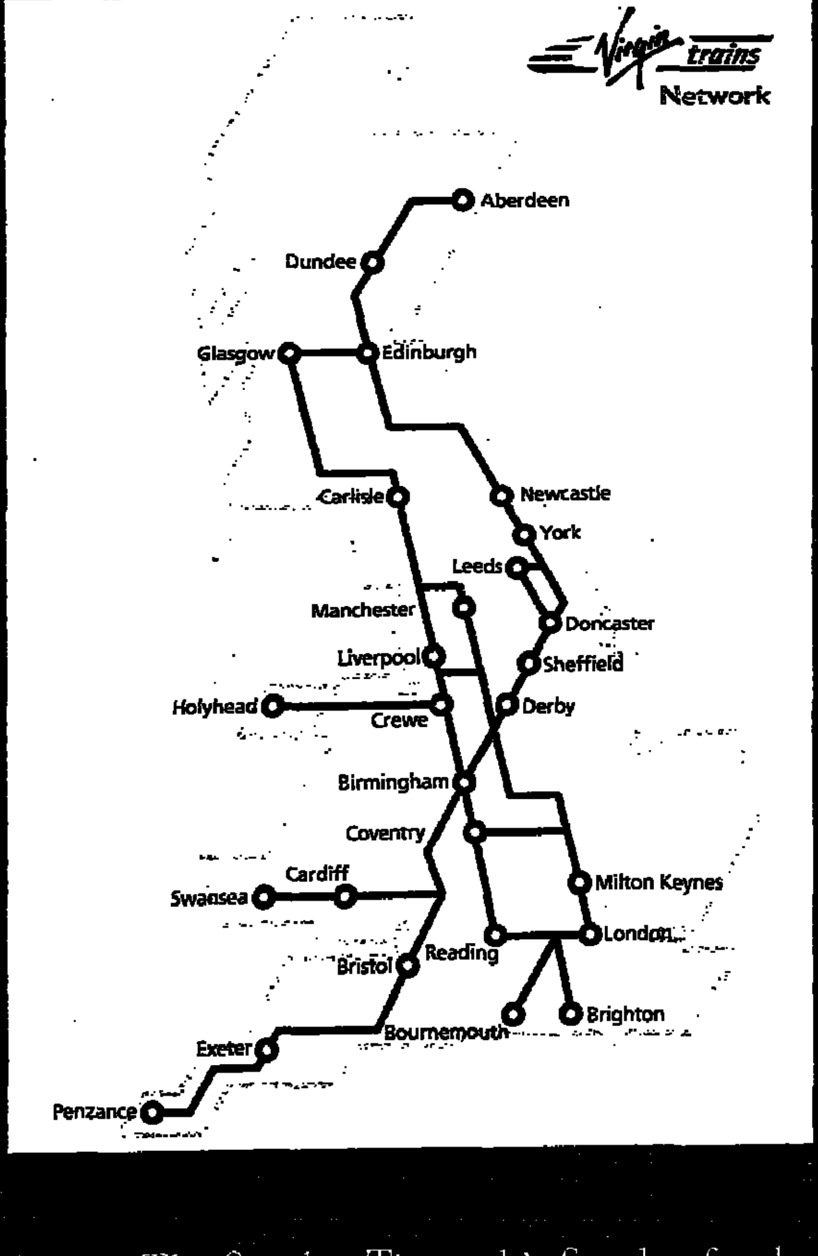
From Mr L. E. Smith

Sir, How can the city of Manchester (report, May 5) be associated with, or claim credit for, the success of the other football teams mentioned? Macclesfield is in Cheshire, Wigan is as close to Liverpool and I am sure the residents of Bolton and Bury do not see themselves as citizens of Manchester. The more-or-less defunct county of Greater Manchester has been confused with the smaller city.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. SMITH,
Isfryn,
St George Road,
Abergele, Conwy.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TEST DRIVE A VIRGIN TRAIN.



Don't miss The Sunday Times this Sunday for details.

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

GOLF: IRISHMAN EMERGES FROM UNDERGOING PAINFUL TREATMENT TO MAKE A STRONG CHALLENGE

Laser guides O'Connor to target

By John Hopkins
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW REDINGTON/ALLSPORT

Montgomerie, left, trudges off after producing some poor golf, but with a challenging 70 in the Benson and Hedges International Open

FOR a game that is supposed to be no more demanding than a gentle stroll in the sunshine, golf inflicts a rare price in injuries. Not long after José Maria Olazábal was forced to spend hours lying down because he could not bear to put any weight on his feet, Christy O'Connor Jr had to have laser treatment on his left arm. What he could smell was his own burning flesh.

When the condition that started as tennis elbow was at its worst and the pain so great that he could not lift a saucer or squeeze a tube of toothpaste, O'Connor wondered whether he would ever be able to play golf again. At his gloomiest, he thought he would have to live the rest of his life on the memories that included the celebrated two iron he hit at The Belfry in his singles against Fred Couples in the 1989 Ryder Cup. This stroke enabled him to defeat the American by one hole and set up the tied match that meant Europe retained the trophy they had won at Muirfield Village two years earlier.

The welcome evidence that the laser treatment had worked for O'Connor came with a 68, four under par, in the opening round of the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire. O'Connor is one stroke behind Greg Turner.

"I came here on Tuesday and it started to snow," Turner said "and I thought I'd just go home. I wasn't in the pro-am so I didn't come to the club and I was glad about that because playing in these conditions would probably have messed up my swing. The strategy has worked."

O'Connor, who had four birdies and 14 pars, was one of only four of the 155-strong field not to have a bogey. He made light of the south-westerly wind, which at times was blowing up to 20mph. A couple of putts failed to drop — from three feet on the 2nd, four feet on the 4th for example — but, otherwise, it was a round of which to be proud.

O'Connor described the laser treatment as like "touching a red hot grill". "You're black from the burns," he said. "There are sparks and things. I know exactly how Olazábal must have felt, especially so young. You appreciate your life when you're out of it."

O'Connor was never a really hard worker and now he can do even less than he used to do. He limits his daily practice to 100 balls and a round of golf and, by wearing a tight armband on his left arm, he is rediscovering his form. "The armband helps to disperse the pain," O'Connor said. "I tell myself the arm is not sore." He wants to remain competitive because, at 48, he is only two years away from being able to compete on the seniors tour, which he believes will yield him rich financial pickings.

Montgomerie's two under par was puzzling because it was so erratic. The Oxfordshire is a tough and long course and he played it in the morning when it was at its toughest and longest. Even so, he would not normally find it so difficult to complete holes in the required figures or even fewer. He had four bogeys, one double-bogey and only five pars. He went from the 18th to the 9th, his 18th, without one par. Yet he also had eight birdies and went round in 70. What is wrong with Montgomerie? Does he still bear the scar tissue of his bruising encounter alongside Tiger Woods in the third round at the Masters? Has he not got his 81 in the fourth round at Augusta out of his system? Or was this just another of those rounds that come along from time to time in golf — like the 84 with which he concluded this same event at this venue this time last year.

Europe's leading golfer these past four years not only ran up some amateurish scores; he hit some amateurish shots. On the 1st, he hit a sand wedge only three-quarters of the way to its target. Likewise, his pitch on the 6th only travelled 47 of its 67 yards and, on the 8th, he hit an eight-iron only 80 yards and into water when it should have travelled 130 yards.

Montgomerie intended to use the 50-mile drive to his new home in Oxshott in Surrey as a time for analysing these strange strokes. "I have got to be positive and think I have had all those disasters and could have shot 80," he said. "Actually, it was a 70 and that is not bad. I shall come back and try something different. Five pars is not my idea of fun."

FIRST ROUND

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

67: G Turner (NZ) 68: C O'Connor Jr. 69: J Lomas, D Clarke, A Coltart, L Westwood, R Goosen (SA), P Mitchell, P Sjoland (Swe), B May (US). 70: C Suneson (Sp), C Montgomerie, P Lawrie, B Langer (Ger), P Broadhurst, D Howell, K Vainola (Fin), D Borrego (Sp), I Woosnam, G Orr, B McFarlane, S Luna (Sp), N Fasth (Swe) 71: P Quirici (Switz), R Boxall, J Coceres (Arg), I Garrido (Sp), D Gilford, D Cooper, P Hedblom (Swe), P Eales, T Bjorn (Den), R Karlsson (Swe), J Spence, G Emerson. 72: J Robson, P Price, R Rafferty, M-A Martin (Sp), P McGinley, M-A Jimenez (Sp), D Robertson, S Webster, J Payne, I Pyman, F Roca (Sp), I Feliu (Sp), S Ballesteros (Sp), P Baker, K Eriksson (Swe), S Allan (Aus), J Haeggman (Swe)

Fairclough aiming to make quick amends

By Our Sports Staff

LORA FAIRCLOUGH, of Lancashire, will make an early bid towards regaining her Solheim Cup place in the opening American Express Tour event of the season in Portugal today. Fairclough is one of the 120 starters in the 54-hole inaugural Estoril Open, being held near Lisbon.

Last year, Fairclough was in line for an automatic place in the Europe side for the Solheim Cup at St Pierre, but missed out when she was overtaken in the final counting tournament before the match. This week, the chase for points begins towards selection for the match against the United States at Muirfield Village in Ohio next year.

The leading seven players will earn automatic places, with the remaining five players being chosen by Pia Nilsson, the new captain of the Europe team.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France, and Florence Descampe, from Belgium, are the other Solheim Cup players in the field.

☐ Laura Davies, of Great Britain, and Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden, recorded rounds of 81 as gusting winds played havoc in the first round of the Gunze Cup World Ladies tournament in Tokyo yesterday. Cheng Mei-chi, of Taiwan, managed an even-par 72 in the tricky conditions to lead by one stroke.

Becker and Stich suffer early exits

BORIS BECKER and Michael Stich were eliminated from the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. Playing in cold, overcast conditions, Becker lost to Felix Mantilla, of Spain, 7-6, 6-2 and Stich was defeated in straight sets by Slava Dosedel, of the Czech Republic, 7-6, 6-2. A third Wimbledon champion was also beaten when Richard Krajicek, of Holland, was beaten 6-1, 6-1 by Andrei Medvedev, of the Ukraine. Medvedev then had to play a second time, beating Jacabo Diaz, a qualifier, from Spain.

Steffi Graf, the world No 2, began her comeback from a serious knee injury yesterday by playing in a local club competition. She helped her team, TC Blau-Weiss Ludwigshafen, to victory, beating Heike Thoms, the German junior champion, 6-1, 6-1. Graf has not played in a competitive tournament since the beginning of February and has lost her place at the top of the rankings to Martina Hingis.

Italians in command

CYCLING: Mario Cipollini led an Italian sweep of the first three places on the second stage of the Tour of Romandy yesterday, but it was a bad day for his compatriot, Claudio Chiappucci, who failed a blood test. Cipollini claimed the 173km stage to Estavayer-le-lac in Switzerland in an exciting sprint, crossing two bike lengths ahead of the pack in a 4hr 21min 46sec. Mario Traversoni was second and Fabio Baldato third.

Return in Romania

RUGBY UNION: Arwel Thomas will make his international comeback for Wales A against Romania in Bucharest on May 24. The stand-off half, who missed the final five nations' match of the season, against England, because of injury, will be partnered at half back by Paul John. They are two of 11 full internationals in a side that includes the teenage wing threequarter, Gareth Wyatt, of Pontypridd.

Sohail apologises

Sohail: sorry

CRICKET: Aamir Sohail, the Pakistan opener, has submitted an "unconditional" apology to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), cricket officials said yesterday. They said the PCB's council would review the two-year ban against him, imposed last month for violating a PCB code of conduct by publicly accusing teammates of involvement in match-fixing and taking bribes to throw matches.

Newcomers for Wales

BOWLS: Jealian Willis, of Port Talbot, and Zoe Silverthorne, of Croesyceiliog, will make their international debuts for Wales in the women's home international series in Ayr from June 20 to 23. Four former internationals — Val Howell, of Merthyr West End, Pam John, of Cardiff, and Shirley Gough and Shirley King, both of Llandrindod Wells — have been recalled.

Redgrave honoured

SPORTS AWARDS: Steve Redgrave, who won his fourth Olympic rowing gold medal in 1996, yesterday received the Variety Club and Outward Bound Trust's sportsman-of the year award from the Duke of Edinburgh. Denise Lewis, the heptathlete, took the women's award and Manchester United the team prize. Disabled awards went to Chris Holmes, the swimmer, and Jo Jackson, for dressage.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This Refresher on discarding is about helping your partner.

Dealer South — Love All

North:
♠ K 7 3 2
♥ Q J 7 5
♦ 9 8
♣ J 10 4

West:
♠ 4
♥ 10 6 4 2
♦ A 10 7 5 3
♣ A 7 3

East:
♠ Q J 9 8 5
♥ K 9
♦ J 6 4 2
♣ 6 2

South:
♠ A 10 6
♥ A 8 3
♦ K Q
♣ K Q 9 8 5

W	N	E	S
—	—	—	1 C
Pass	1 H	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	All Pass	

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of diamonds

At trick one declarer won East's jack of diamonds with the queen. He then played on clubs. West held off until the third round, hoping to see if East could make a useful signal. If you have been following this series of articles you will know that it is usually safe to discard from a five-card suit. Here a spade looks safe enough. But East made the more informative discard of the two of diamonds.

In this situation, if you discard from the suit your partner has led, you should discard the spot card you would have led back if you were returning the suit. Here, if East had obtained the lead he would have returned the two, his original fourth highest. Thus when he discards the two it follows that he initially had either two or four diamonds. Since East would hardly void himself in his partner's suit, in this instance it was clear that he had started with four.

Thus West was able to lay down the ace of diamonds, felling South's king. West cashed the rest of his diamonds to defeat the contract by one trick, taking in all four diamonds and one club. Without East's diamond discard West might well have played a major suit, attempting to put East in to return a diamond through South's king. Here that would have enabled the declarer to take nine tricks.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

XENOGENOUS
a. Kind to strangers
b. An unwelcome guest
c. From outside causes

FLUBDUB
a. Pompous language
b. A flummery syllabub
c. To hoodwink

EXUNGULATE
a. To exile
b. To cut the nails
c. With monolithic hoofs

FANDANGLE
a. Fooling around
b. A window in the roof
c. The handle of a lace fan

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Close shave

After four games of the rematch between Garry Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue computer, the score remains deadlocked at two points each. In the fourth game, Kasparov subtly varied his opening to sidestep Deep Blue's vast database.

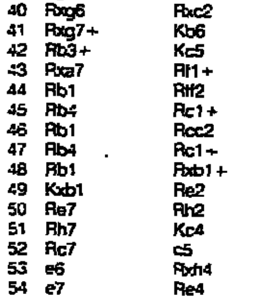
Although Black's opening looked risky, Deep Blue made no attempt to refute it. Kasparov sacrificed a pawn for some initiative and came close to a win when Deep Blue (as in game one) gratuitously weakened the pawn shield in front of its king. Nevertheless, Kasparov could not force the victory.

White: Deep Blue
Black: Garry Kasparov
New York, May 1997

Wade's Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d6
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	Nc3	Bg4
5	h3	Bh5
6	Bd3	e6
7	Qe2	d5
8	Bg5	Be7
9	e5	Nfd7
10	Bxe7	Qxe7
11	g4	Bg6
12	Bxg6	hxg6
13	h4	Na6
14	0-0-0	0-0-0
15	Rdg1	Nc7
16	Kb1	f6
17	exf6	Qxf6
18	Rg3	Rde8
19	Re1	Rhf8
20	Nd1	e5
21	dxe5	Qf4
22	a3	Ne6
23	Nc3	Ndc5
24	b4	Nd7
25	Qd3	Qf7
26	b5	Ndc5
27	Qe3	Qf4
28	bxc6	bxc6
29	Rd1	Kc7
30	Ka1	Qxe3
31	fxe3	Rf7
32	Rh3	Ref8
33	Nd4	Rf2
34	Rb1	Rg2
35	Nce2	Rxg4
36	Nxe6+	Nxe6
37	Nd4	Nxd4
38	exd4	Rxd4
39	Rg1	Rc4
40	Rxg6	Rxc2
41	Rxg7+	Kb6
42	Rb3+	Kc5
43	Rxa7	Rf1+
44	Rb1	Rff2
45	Rb4	Rc1+
46	Rb1	Rcc2
47	Rb4	Rc1+
48	Rb1	Rxb1+
49	Kxb1	Re2
50	Re7	Rh2
51	Rh7	Kc4
52	Rc7	c5
53	e6	Rxh4
54	e7	Re4
55	a4	Kb3
56	Kc1	Draw agreed

Diagram of final position



Running score

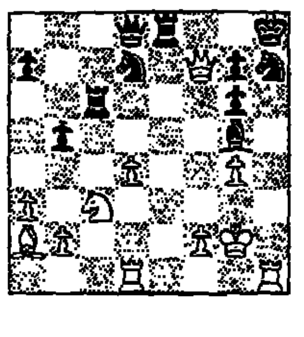
	1	2	3	4	Pts
Kasparov	1	0	½	½	2
Deep Blue	0	1	½	½	2

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Lochner — Karner, Leningrad 1940. How did White bulldoze his way through on the h-file in spectacular fashion?

Solution on page 46

FOR THE RECORD

BALLROOM DANCING

BIRMINGHAM: UK Open amateur ten-dance championship: 1, S Sysum and K Lagden (Eng); 2, D Bennett and R Coster (Eng); 3, L Portas and J Spencer (Eng); 4, W Brown and K Lunn (Scot); 5, R Windsor and D R Aspey (Eng); 6, R Paull and T Jackson (Wales).

LONDON: English professional modern championship: 1, A Sinkinson and C Jorgensen (Eng); 2, H Tanaka and A Preston (Japan); 3, S Draper and L Marriner (Eng); 4, D Cacciari and O Garshina (Russ); 5, S Hannah and C Hannah (Eng); 6, I Suvorov and I Suvorov (US). English amateur latin championship: 1, H Pierzchalo and N Hansen (Switz); 2, R Hoosan and J Roach (SA); 3, S Sysum and K Lagden (Eng); 4, A Kainz and K Beesley (Eng); 4, D Bennett and R Coster (Eng); 6, D Robertson and S Smith (Scot).

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukee 1 Oakland 0; Boston 11 Minnesota 3; Cleveland 7 Toronto 1; Detroit 12 Kansas City 3; Baltimore 3 Anaheim 0; New York Yankees 5 Texas 2. Postponed: Chicago White Sox v Seattle

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 19 San Francisco 3; Atlanta 3 Florida 2 (10inns); New York Mets 4 Houston 1; St Louis 14 Philadelphia 7; Pittsburgh 14 Colorado 3; Los Angeles 4 Cincinnati 2; San Diego 6 Chicago Cubs 3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-offs: Eastern Conference: New York 88 Miami 79 (New York lead best-of-seven series 1-0). Western Conference: Seattle 106 Houston 101 (series tied 1-1).

CYCLING

LE LOCLE: Tour of Romandy: First stage (167.8 km): 1, G Di Grande (It) 4hr 54min 12sec; 2, G Guerini (It) same time; 3, M Boogerd (Holl) at 6sec; 4, P Tonkov (Russ) 8sec; 5, M Coppolillo (It); 6, B Zberg (Switz); 7, R Petito (It); 8, D Rebellin (It); 9, M Pantani (It); 10, A Moos (Switz), same time. Leading overall positions: 1, C Boardman (GB) 5:04 18; 2, E Breukink (Holl) at 2sec; 3, D Baranowski (Pol) 3; 4, Savoldelli 4; 5, Guerini 5; 6, J Bruyneel (Bel) 6

DUNKIRK FOUR-DAY RACE: Second stage (Boulogne-sur-Mer to Henin Montigny, 184km): 1, R McEwen (Aus) 4hr 25min 42sec; 2, D Abdoujaparov (Uzb); 3, J Kirsipuu (Est); 4, J Museeuw (Bel); 5, C Vasseur (Fr); 6, N Jalabert (Fr) all same time. Leading overall positions: 1, W Peeters (Bel) 7hr 54min 55sec; 2, N Mattan (Bel) at 4sec; 3, A Tchmil (Russ) 6; 4, McEwen 10; 5, L Genty (Fr) 12.

EQUESTRIANISM

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS: Leading positions (after first day of dressage): 1 equal, Lafayett (L Algotsson, Swe) and Custom Made (D O'Connor, US) 48.6 penalty pts; 3, Archie Brown (P Muir, GB) 49.4; 4, Headley Bravo (D Dick, GB) 49.6; 5, Darien Powers (A Hoy, Aus) 52.0; 6, Beta (T Collins, Berm) 53.4

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late football

UEFA CUP: Final, first leg: Schalke 04 1 Internazionale 0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leicester City 1 Sheffield Wednesday 0.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE, Premier division: Celtic 0 Kilmarnock 0; Dundee United 0 Rangers 1

WORLD CUP: European qualifying group nine: Ukraine 1 Armenia 1 (in Kiev)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Cardiff 2 Charlton 2; Luton 5 Chelsea 2; Millwall 2 Norwich 1; Southampton 2 Wimbledon 1; West Ham 3 Watford 3.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leeds 3 Derby 0. First division: Preston 2 West Bromwich 1. Third division: Chesterfield 3 Rochdale 1. League Cup: Final: Stoke 3 York 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90 min).

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey 0 Cray 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Southam 1 Kings Heath 1; Studley BKL 6 Alvechurch 1.

ICIS FULL MEMBERS' CUP: Final: Aylesbury 0 Maidenhead 3.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Wisbech 5 Lowestoft 1.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: C Manning O B 2 Old Aloysians 3; Glyn O B 1 Old Hamptonians 0.

PORTUGUESE CUP: Quarter-final: Maia 0 Sporting Lisbon 3.

COPA LIBERTADORES: Second round, second, first leg: Nacional (Uru) 1 Colo Colo (Chile) 3; Nacional (Ecu) 1 Cruzeiro (Br) 0. Second round, second leg: River Plate (Arg) 1 Racing Club (Arg) 1 (4-4 on agg; Racing Club win 5-3 on pens).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup: Play-offs: Eastern Conference: Philadelphia 4 Buffalo 1 (Philadelphia lead best-of-seven series 3-0). Western Conference: Edmonton 4 Colorado 3 (Colorado lead 2-1).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: At Tampere: Relegation group: Italy 4 Slovakia 3.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION: Bramley 6 Hunslet 17.

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs, first leg: Bedford 11 Bristol 20; Coventry 16 London Irish 14.

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Ebbw Vale 27 Bridgend 5; Neath 8 Llanelli 13; Pontypridd 54 Newport 20; Cardiff 31 Swansea 20.

TENNIS

ANTALYA, Turkey: Fed Cup: Europe-Africa zone: Group two: Pool A: Great Britain bt Estonia 3-0 (Great Britain names first: C Wood bt L Suurvarik 6-3, 6-0; S Smith bt H Holter 6-3, 6-4; J Pullin and L Woodroffe bt Suurvarik and Holter 6-0, 6-1)

ROME: Italian Open women's tournament: Second round: P Schnyder (Switz) bt S Testud (Fr) 7-6, 6-0; A Coetzer (SA) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; I Majoli (Cro) bt N Arendt (US) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; B Paulus (Austria) bt A Gersi (Cz) 6-1, 6-3; Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt F Suarez (Arg) 6-2, 6-2. Third round: J Kruger (SA) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-4.

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: Men's tournament: Second round: J Bjorkman (Swe) bt L Jensen (US) 6-1, 6-2; S Campbell (US) bt B Black (Zim) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; J A Viloca (Sp) bt P Frederiksson (Swe) 6-4, 6-3; S Sargsian (Arm) bt D Flach (US) 7-6, 6-4.

HAMBURG: Men's tournament: Second round: A Medvedev (Ukr) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 6-1, 6-1; J Diaz (Sp) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-2, 3-6, 7-5; A Costa (Sp) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-3, 7-6; S Bruguera (Sp) bt J Tarango (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; A Corretja (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; W Ferreira (SA) bt A Martin (Sp) 3-6, 7-5, 7-5. Third round: A Berasategui (Sp) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-4, 6-7; T Haas (Ger) bt O Gross (Ger) 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; Medvedev bt Diaz 6-3, 6-3; F Mantilla (Sp) bt B Becker (Ger) 7-6, 6-2; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 6-2, 6-1; H Arazi (Mor) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-1, 6-2; Bruguera bt Ferreira 6-1, 6-3.

LEE-ON-SOLENT: Satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Men: First round: S Barron (Ire) bt B Cowan 7-6, 6-2; D Roditi (Mex) bt P Hand 6-3, 6-1; L Milligan bt N West 6-1, 6-0; A Belobrajdic (Aus) bt N Costeloe (Fr) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; I Neumuller (Austria) bt D Ward 6-0, 6-2; R Gilbert (Fr) bt J Unterberger (Austria) 6-4, 6-2; M Bok (Holl) bt M Maclagan 6-7, 7-6, 6-3; J Delgado bt P Langvardt (Den) 6-2, 6-3. Women: First round: J Ward bt D Musgrave no 6-1, 6-2; K Warne-Holland bt A Tordoff 7-5, 6-0; L Ahl bt L Perkins 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY

Chester

Going: heavy

2.10 (5f 16yd) 1, Bodfaridistinction (K Fallon, 2-1 fav); 2, Demolition Jo (14-1); 3, Be My Wish (7-1). 6 ran. 6l, 3l. A Bailey. Tote £2.50; £1.50, £4.20. DF: £21.80. CSF £24.72.

2.40 (1m 2f 75yd) 1, Crystal Hearted (A McGlone, 9-2); 2, Barnum Sands (5-4 jt-fav); 3, Tootfilo (5-4 jt-fav). 3 ran. NR: Musical. 13l, 17l. H Candy. Tote: £4.70. DF: £3.40. CSF: £9.05.

3.10 (1m 5f 89yd) 1, Royal Court (J Reid, 9-4 fav); 2, Further Flight (20-1); 3, Moonax (13-2). 7 ran. NR: Ela-Aristokrati, Water Poet. ¾l, 7l. P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £3.40; £2.00, £3.80. DF: £52.80. Trio: £57.20. CSF: £44.65.

3.40 (5f 16yd) 1, Surprise Mission (Dane O'Neill, 11-2); 2, Selhurstpark Flyer (8-1); 3, Bowden Rose (10-1). Tadeo 7-2 fav. 9 ran. 6l, 4l. Mrs J Ramsden. Tote £7.40; £2.30, £2.20, £4.00. DF: £40.00. Trio: £151.40. CSF £46.46. Tricast: £399.42.

4.15 (7f 122yd) 1, Albert The Bear (V Darley, 9-1); 2, Knobbleeneeze (9-2 fav); 3, Orange Place (9-1); 4, Gulf Shaadi (11-1). 18 ran. 3l, 2l. J Berry. Tote £7.20; £2.10, £1.60, £2.70, £3.00. DF £15.70. Trio £107.20. CSF £49.64. Tricast £367.52.

4.45 (1m 4f 66yd) 1, The Butterwick Kid (R Winston, 11-2); 2, Raffles Rooster (3-1 fav); 3, Rasayel (12-1). 11 ran. NR: Full Throttle. Nk, nk. R Fahey. Tote £6.10; £2.00, £1.40, £3.50. DF £6.10. Trio £36.10. CSF £18.55. Tricast £134.41. Dancing Cavalier (8-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in pound.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £6,497.34 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).

Placepot: £995.10. Quadpot: £32.00.

Hamilton Park

Going: soft, heavy in places

2.00 (5f 4yd) 1, Impish (Dale Gibson, 12-1); 2, Tropical Beach (11-2); 3, Ragtime Cowgirl (100-1). Lord Sky 3-1 fav. 11 ran. 6l, ¾l. T Etherington. Tote: £17.60; £2.60, £2.50, £5.60. DF: £28.90. Trio: not won (pool of £498.50 carried forward to 2.20 at Lingfield today). CSF £67.77. Tricast: £5,718.12.

2.30 (5f 4yd) 1, Vice Presidential (J Carroll, 8-1); 2, Jacmar (20-1); 3, Sharp Cracker (5-4 jt-fav). Mamma's Boy 5-4 jt-fav. 6 ran. 6l, 1½l. T Etherington. Tote: £16.00; £4.40, £5.50. DF: £136.70. CSF £122.14.

3.00 (1m 5f 9yd) 1, Golden Hadeer (M Baird, 7-2); 2, Kintavi (7-1); 3, All On (9-4 fav). 7 ran. NR: Cois Na Farraige. 2l, 5l. M Ryan. Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £3.60. DF: £11.30. CSF: £23.25. Tricast: £55.31.

3.30 (1m 65yd) 1, Clued Up (Mr A Evans, 7-1); 2, Hutchies Lady (5-2 fav); 3, Roar On Tour (12-1). 9 ran. ¾l, 7l. P Evans. Tote: £9.50; £2.00, £1.70, £3.30. DF: £14.10. Trio: £53.60. CSF £22.91. Tricast £187.48.

4.05 (1m 65yd) 1, Alezal (S Sanders, 2-9 fav); 2, No Grousing (4-1); 3, Tipperary Sunset (100-1). 4 ran. 18l, 3l. W Jarvis. Tote: £1.20. DF £1.40. CSF: £1.30.

4.35 (1m 4f 17yd) 1, Sun Mark (S Sanders, 3-1); 2, Kathryn's Pet (10-11 fav); 3, Six Clerks (7-1). 5 ran. 1¼l, 3½l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £3.30; £1.10, £1.50. DF: £1.50. CSF £5.35.

Placepot: £2,246.00. Quadpot: £18.90.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.20 (1m 4f) 1, Sam Peeb (D Wright, 20-1); 2, Philosophic (6-4 fav); 3, Shadiad (12-1); 4, Bonne Ville (8-1). 16 ran. 3l, 2½l. R Fahey. Tote £38.50; £4.70, £1.10, £4.10, £4.80. DF: £73.80. Trio: £127.30. CSF: £50.22. Tricast: £415.57.

2.50 (1m) 1, Penlop (B Doyle, 11-4 fav); 2, Naivasha (5-1); 3, Madam Lucy (33-1). 14 ran. 6l, hd. B Meehan. Tote: £4.10; £1.20, £1.80, £3.70. DF: £11.00. Trio: £128.40 (part won; pool of £79.58 carried forward to 2.20 at Lingfield today). CSF: £15.20.

3.20 (5f) 1, Piccolo Cativo (Angela Harley, 33-1); 2, Blue Kite (11-10 fav); 3, Thanks Keith (4-1). 12 ran. ¾l, 3l. J Wilson. Tote £29.70; £8.00, £1.30, £1.50. DF: £84.80. Trio: £46.10. CSF: £70.55.

3.50 (6f) 1, Lady Sheriff (G Parkin, 7-4 fav); 2, Napier Star (11-1); 3, Corinchili (8-1). 13 ran. Hd, ½l. M W Easterby. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £3.60, £3.20. DF: £25.60. Trio: £39.70. CSF: £20.23. Tricast: £127.90.

4.25 (6f) 1, Chilling (K Sked, 20-1); 2, Desert Invader (5-1); 3, Bold Aristocrat (13-2). Elton Ledger 5-2 fav. 14 ran. 1½l, 5l. N Tinkler. Tote: £16.90; £2.30, £4.40, £1.10. DF: £80.80. Trio: £157.30 (part won; pool of £177.33 carried forward to 2.20 at Lingfield today). CSF: £105.66.

4.55 (7f) 1, Water Garden (A Clark, 9-4 fav); 2, Shontaine (14-1); 3, Swan Island (4-1); 4, Tawafd (14-1). 18 ran. 1½l, 2l. G Wragg. Tote: £3.90; £1.70, £4.60, £1.40, £4.40. DF: £33.80. Trio: £57.10. CSF: £35.93. Tricast: £119.94.

Placepot: £36.30. Quadpot: £4.60.

Wednesday's late results

Wetherby

Going: good to soft

6.05 (2m hdle) 1, Overamman (F Leahy, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Political Mandate (25-1); 3, Mr Bruno (50-1). Amazing Sail 2-1 jt-fav. 7 ran. 15l, dist. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £2.90; £1.90, £5.40. DF: £20.10. CSF: £35.80.

6.35 (2m ch) 1, Political Tower (B Storey, 4-1); 2, Mister Oddy (2-1 fav); 3, Leotard (9-4). 4 ran. 3l, 1½l. R Nixon. Tote: £4.90. DF: £3.60. CSF £11.50.

7.05 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Diddy Rymer (R Guest, 10-1); 2, Boston Man (7-1); 3, Riveaux (7-1). China King 3-1 fav. 12 ran. 3½l, 10l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £15.00; £2.30, £2.70, £3.00. DF: £34.90. Trio: £76.80. CSF: £78.25.

7.35 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Nicholas Plant (G Cahill, 3-1); 2, Destin d'Estruval (9-4); 3, Brighter Shade (2-1 fav). 5 ran. 4l, 12l. J Goldie. Tote: £3.30; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £4.00. CSF: £9.14.

8.05 (3m 1f ch) 1, Colonel In Chief (P Carberry, Evens fav); 2, Kilulla (15-2); 3, Dragons Bay (12-1). 7 ran. 5l, dist. G Richards. Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £2.60. DF: £9.70. CSF: £7.99.

8.35 (2m hdle) 1, Teejay'n'aitch (S Taylor, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Karchem (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Highland Way (3-1). 6 ran. 8l, 9l. J Goldie. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £2.70. DF: £4.80. CSF: £9.72.

Placepot: £308.30. Quadpot: £29.90.

Uttoxeter

Going: good to soft

5.50 (3m 2f ch) 1, Front Cover (Miss S Vickery, 6-2 jt-fav); 2, Royal Segos (14-1); 3, Gillie's Fountain (16-1). Ita's Fellow 6-2 jt-fav. 10 ran. 13l, dist. S Pike. Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £3.00, £3.30. DF: £34.00. Trio: £146.70. CSF: £35.55.

6.20 (2m hdle) 1, Blotoft (M A Fitzgerald, 11-4); 2, Mecado (12-1); 3, Playful Juliet (4-1). Wordsmith 9-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Maggies Lad. 7l, hd. S Gollings. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £2.60, £1.90. DF: £16.50. Trio: £89.10. CSF: £33.48. Tricast: £123.78.

6.50 (4m 2f ch) 1, The Malakarma (Mr B Pollock, 11-2); 2, Flaming Cuplet (12-1); 3, Rusty Bridge (9-2). Holland House 11-10 fav. 7 ran. 7l, 17l. Miss C Saunders. Tote: £7.50; £2.60, £7.10. DF: £69.00. CSF: £55.78.

7.20 (2m hdle) 1, Fourth In Line (W Marston, 7-2); 2, Wise King (2-1 fav); 3, Daraishan (5-2). 5 ran. 4l, 8l. M Wilkinson. Tote: £4.80; £1.70, £2.30. DF: £8.50. CSF: £11.20.

7.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, Formal Invitation (Mr R Thornton, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Andermatt (14-1); 3, Sailor Jim (7-4 jt-fav). 5 ran. 3l, 25l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.30; £1.90, £2.60. DF: £20.60. CSF: £18.66.

8.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Mr Christie (A Thornton, 5-1); 2, Beechfield Flyer (4-1); 3, Lottery Ticket (4-1). 15 ran. 6l, 1l. Mrs L Siddall. Tote: £9.00; £2.50, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £11.80. Trio: £18.90. CSF: £24.60.

Placepot: £213.20. Quadpot: £38.90.

RACING: HILLS FAMILY DEPRIVED OF FAIRYTALE SUCCESS AS SANGSTER COMPLETES FAMOUS TREBLE

Royal Court displays sense of theatre

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Royal Court, right, edges ahead of Further Flight in a thrilling duel for the Ormonde Stakes at Chester yesterday

FOR *Robert Sangster* it was a dream come true, but for the father and son combination of Barry and Michael Hills the thrilling outcome to yesterday's Ormonde Stakes at Chester crushed their hopes of a fairytale success.

As the mud-spattered leaders turned for home, Hills senior could hardly believe his luck as he peered through the gloom and saw his two runners, Moonax and Further Flight, vying for the lead, with the day's feature race apparently at their mercy.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TANGO KING
(8.20 Nottingham)
Next best: Musharak
(4.20 Lingfield Park)

The cantankerous but talented Moonax, racing with an enthusiasm normally reserves for biting people, was in front briefly before Further Flight took over. The magnificent old warhorse, now 11, was being urged on by most of the drenched spectators at the Roodeye — and the man in the saddle.

For more than a week Michael Hills has been stuck on the 999-winner mark. At last, the thousandth riding success of his career seemed within his grasp — on the horse which he calls "my best friend".

Unfortunately, John Reid and Royal Court had not read the script. Royal Court, scrubbed along by Reid for much of the race, finally got the message and, as the furlong pole loomed, the Sadler's Wells colt began to close the gap. Further Flight sensed the threat and stuck out his neck but was overhauled inside the final 100 yards.

"It's so annoying," Hills senior said. "Michael said he had the winner stone cold at one stage. It would have been so nice for him to have ridden his thousandth winner on the horse which has done so much for his career."

However, as the Hills lamented their *misfortune*, Sangster was in a London restaurant celebrating a notable treble. The hard-fought win of Royal Court, trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam, came after the owner-breeder's silks were carried to victory by *Panama City in the Chester* Vase and Top Cees in the Chester Cup, the other feature races of the three-day meeting.

With Barry Hills pulling out Musalsal from the Dee Stakes, only three runners went to post. Crystal Hearted, the 9-2 outsider, handled the heavy ground. Barnum Sands and Teofilio, the 5-4 joint-favourites, did not. End of story. The winner, *owned* by Carolyn Poland and trained by Henry Candy, her brother-in-law, is entered in the Derby. "But you can't call that a true Derby trial in those conditions," Michael Poland, the owner's husband, stated realistically.

The most striking performance of the afternoon came in the opening *EBF* Sefton Maiden Fillies' Stakes when Bodfaridistinction justified the high regard in which she is held by her trainer, Alan Bailey.

"I think she is very good; the best I have ever had. She might end up going for group races. On good ground she is something else. I worked her with two older horses who have won and I could not believe it. I thought I was dreaming."

On the subject of dreams, there was a cautious reaction yesterday to plans, *announced* by Michael Osborne, for a $20 million world series of races in the millenium. Given the opposition to the formation of a European Breeders' Cup, because of differences between various countries, achieving agreement for a world thoroughbred series will not be easy. "Where will it fit into the *pattern of racing, not just* nationally, but internationally?" John Dunlop, the Arundel trainer, asked.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
2.00 Catch The Pigeon. 2.30 Barton Heights. 3.00 Mr Reiner. 3.30 Over The Stream. 4.00 Greenmount Lad. 4.30 Fatehalkhair.

Carl Evans: 4.00 Greenmount Lad.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 ALPHAMERIC NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,355: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 2-12 MUZRAK 329 (BF,F) M Hammond 6-11-7 R Garritty
2 7621 CATCH THE PIGEON 7 (CD,F) R Barr 8-11-2 N Smith
3 0F1 ROYAL YORK 16 (G) G Richards 5-11-2 P Carberry
4 04-0 ANOTHER GEORGE 39 Miss M Milligan 7-11-0 A S Smith
5 383 ERNI 52 I Tate 5-11-0 R McCarthy (7)
6 0000 RUBISLAW 13 (V) Mrs K Lamb 5-11-0 Miss S Lamb (7)
7 P0P0 STRONG CHARACTER 7 (S) D Lamb 11-11-0 J Burke
8 P000 TOSHIBA TALK 69 B Ellison 5-11-0 G McCormack (7)

11-8 Royal York, 3-1 Muzrak, 7-2 Catch The Pigeon, 10-1 Erni, 16-1 Another George, Toshiba Talk, 33-1 others.

2.30 JOHN WADE GROUP OF COMPANIES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£6,775: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1 U140 RED JAM JAR 35 (CD,F,G) S Bell 12-12-0 K Johnson
2 4912 BARTON HEIGHTS 7 (BF,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-6 P Niven
3 5631 FLINTLOCK 7 (CD,F) H Alexander 7-10-8 (5ex) R McGrath (5)
4 6246 SNOWY LANE 41 (G,S) J Neville 9-10-5 R Garritty
5 3026 SHELTON ABBEY 13 (B,C,F,G,S) J Wade 11-10-3 P Carberry
6 F544 ROYAL HAND 14 (V) R Armson 7-10-0 Mr R Armson
7 3540 OBVIOUS RISK 57 E Cahn 6-10-0 C McCormack (7)
8 0-25 NITE SPRITE 7 R Barr 7-10-0 S Taylor (5)
9 3330 CATTON LADY 25 (B) R Craggs 7-10-0 B Grattan (5)

9-4 Barton Heights, 11-4 Flintlock, 11-2 Red Jam Jar, 13-2 Snowy Lane, 7-1 Shelton Abbey, 12-1 Royal Hand, 20-1 Obvious Risk, 25-1 others.

3.00 DUDLEY DUKES ANTIQUE FAIR NOVICES CHASE
(£3,127: 2m 110yd) (11)

1 3P01 GONE ASHORE 25 (D,F) M Barnes 6-11-7 G Cahill
2 0P03 ARISTODEMUS 25 (B) Mrs L Marshall 8-11-0 K Johnson
3 F5FF CHILDSWAY 59 (F,G) S J Robinson 9-11-0 N Smith
4 PPP8 LEPTON 90 (B,G) J Curtis 6-11-0 R Garritty
5 P224 MOSS PAGEANT 49 (G) F Walton 7-11-0 B Storey
6 -2P2 MR REINER 168 (C,F,G,S) J Wade 9-11-0 P Carberry
7 P004 NOBODYS FLAME 9 S Pittendrigh 9-11-0 A S Smith
8 -2P5 SUNKALA SHINE 20P S Clark 9-11-0 Miss R Clark (7)
9 0066 WILD BROOK 6 B Ellison 7-11-0 G McCormack (7)
10 02F0 HEE'S A DANCER 35 (D,F) Miss L Russell 5-10-8 A Thornton
11 0P0F MEESONETTE 25 B Ellison 5-10-3 D Parker

3-1 Gone Ashore, Mr Reiner, 13-2 Aristodemus, Wild Brook, 10-1 Childsway, 14-1 Lepton, Moss Pageant, Nobodys Flame, Sunkala Shine, Hee's A Dancer, 20-1 Meesonette

3.30 GEORGE CARPENTER MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,574: 3m 3f) (10)

1 2P6F CROWN EQUERRY 4 (BF,F,G,S) G Richards 7-12-4 P Carberry
2 -1F3 TEMPLE GARTH 14 (C,F,G,S) P Beaumont 8-11-6 R Supple
3 -60F OVER THE STREAM 27 (F,G) Miss M Milligan 11-11-0 A S Smith
4 215U SCRABO VIEW 154 (F,G,S) P Beaumont 9-10-13 B Grattan (5)
5 -6P0 JIMMY O'DEA 286 (V,F) J Mackie 10-10-8 E Husband (3)
6 3202 BLAZING DAWN 7 (CD,F,G,S) J Hubbuck 10-10-4 T Reed
7 4P55 JENDEE 46 (CD,F,S) B Ellison 9-10-0 C McCormack (7)
8 /0U0 JAUNTY GIG 9 (B,CD,F,G) J Birkett 11-10-0 L O'Hara
9 132/6 MISCHIEVOUS GIRL 18 (CD,F) R Tate 9-10-0 Mrs F Needham
10 31F6 BRIGHT DESTINY 21 (V,S) J Goldie 6-10-0 Mr D McPhail (7)

11-8 Crown Equerry, 5-1 Blazing Dawn, 13-2 Over The Stream, 8-1 Temple Garth, 10-1 Scrabo View, Jaunty Gig, 12-1 Jimmy O'Dea, 16-1 others.

4.00 GUY CUNARD HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,842: 2m 5f) (6)

1 1-42 KNOWE HEAD 13P (CD,F,G,S) Miss C Blakeborough 13-13-0 M Wilson (5)
2 R112 GREENMOUNT LAD 25 (C,F,G,S) J Comforth 9-12-10 P Comforth (7)
3 232P PRESS FOR ACTION 20 (F,G,S) S Shirley-Beavan 12-12-10 Miss P Robson (5)
4 PP42 BUCKANEER BAY 27P S Pittendrigh 10-12-7 R Hale (5)
5 P13S DONSIDE 6 (F) G White 9-12-7 J Walton
6 -821 WHAT CHANCE 56 (D,G,S) Mrs H Mobley 9-12-5 A Charles-Jones (7)

13-8 Greenmount Lad, 11-4 Knowe Head, 3-1 What Chance, 7-1 Press For Action, 12-1 Donside, 14-1 Buckaneer Bay

4.30 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,248: 2m 1f) (7)

1 0-53 SHARP SENSATION 218 (D,F) G A Harker 7-12-0 R Garritty
2 3003 EDEN DANCER 15 (BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-10 P Niven
3 /30- IMPERIAL BID 25F (G) F Murphy 9-11-10 M Foster
4 2321 FATEHALKHAIR 7 (CD,F) B Ellison 5-11-7 C McCormack (7)
5 0426 ERINY 14 (F,S) J J Quinn 8-11-1 R Supple
6 6P63 BEAU MATELOT 16 Miss M Milligan 5-10-9 A S Smith
7 3054 JENDORCET 7 C Fairhurst 7-10-1 F Perratt

5-4 Fatehalkhair, 11-2 Eden Dancer, Beau Matelot, 7-1 Jendorcet, 8-1 Sharp Sensation, Eriny, 12-1 Imperial Bid.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 72 winners from 255 runners, 28.2%; F Murphy, 3 from 11, 27.3%; T Tate, 6 from 24, 25.0%; H Alexander, 6 from 30, 20.0%; P Beaumont, 17 from 88, 19.3%; G Richards, 5 from 33, 15.2%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 58 winners from 187 rides, 31.0%; Mr N Wilson, 3 from 12, 25.0%; C McCormack, 4 from 17, 23.5%; R McGrath, 4 from 25, 16.0%; P Carberry, 4 from 26, 15.4%; N Smith, 14 from 98, 14.3%

RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY RESULTS
LINGFIELD 101 201
CARLISLE 102 202
SEDGEFIELD 103 203
NOTTINGHAM 104 204
STRATFORD 105 205
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

STRATFORD

THUNDERER
5.40 Maid For Adventure. 6.10 Stately Home. 6.35 Sharp Command. 7.05 Disco Des Mottes. 7.35 Most Equal. 8.05 Desmond Gold. 8.35 Dovetto.

Carl Evans: 8.05 Desmond Gold.

GOING: GOOD SIS

5.40 PRAGNELL TROPHY NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,360: 2m 6f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 6142 MAID FOR ADVENTURE 13 (BF,F) Miss H Knight 6-11-1 J Culloty
2 3/0 DOCS BOY 75 D Sherwood 7-11-0 J Osborne
3 0U FREELINE FONTAINE 20 N Henderson 5-11-0 M A Fitzgerald
4 00-P MUMMY'S MOLE 34 G Roe 6-11-0 W Marston
5 00 NICANJON 44 R Dickin 6-11-0 X Aizpuru (5)
6 SAFWAN 602F P Hobbs 5-11-0 N Williamson
7 PR WOLDSMAN 34 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0 C Llewellyn
8 0000 LUCRATIVE PERK 13 Miss C Caroe 5-10-9 D Leahy
9 0023 REGAL GEM 39 (F,G) C Barwell 6-10-9 B Fenton
10 0 THUNDERBIRD 84 A H Harvey 5-10-9 J A McCarthy

7-4 Maid For Adventure, 9-2 Freeline-Fontaine, 6-1 Safwan, 13-2 Woldsman, 7-4 Docs Boy, 8-1 Regal Gem, 16-1 Mummy's Mole, Nicanjon, Lucrative Perk, 20-1 Thunderbird.

6.10 RICHARDSON DEVELOPMENTS NOVICES CHASE (£3,652: 2m 5f 110yd) (5)

SKY

1 3313 GREENBACK 23 (BF,F,G,S) P Hobbs 6-11-8 N Williamson
2 P632 STATELY HOME 13 (C,F,G) P Bowen 6-11-8 R Johnson
3 5PF1 MONKS SOHAM 13 (G) G Hubbard 9-11-4 P Henley (3)
4 -82P FINNIGAN FREE 50 G Ham 7-10-12 Mr M Frith (7)
5 5-P4 LITTLE GAINS 73 R Lee 8-10-12 B Fenton

Evens Stately Home, 5-2 Greenback, 7-2 Monks Soham, 14-1 Finnigan Free, 25-1 Little Gains

6.35 PRAGNELL TROPHY NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,346: 2m 6f 110yd) (9)

SKY

1 4141 SHARP COMMAND 18 (F) P Eccles 4-11-5 A P McCoy
2 -F GENTLEMAN JIM 22 R Curtis 7-11-0 D Morris
3 0053 GOWER-SLAVE 7 P Bowen 5-11-0 R Johnson
4 8/0- MARINERS MEMORY 529 R Brazington 9-11-0 R Massey (3)
5 000 MURRAY'S MILLION 102 J Smith 5-11-0 W Marston
6 0FP2 SIOUX TO SPEAK 45 (G) Miss H Knight 5-11-0 J F Titley
7 00-0 CURRA MINSTRAL 51 J Long 7-10-9 Leesa Long
8 -60 SAUCY NUN 91 I Williams 5-10-9 B Powell
9 0-PP SUMMIT ELSE 69 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-9 C Llewellyn

6-4 Sioux To Speak, 7-4 Sharp Command, 12-1 Gower-Slave, Summit Else, 14-1 Saucy Nun, 25-1 Gentleman Jim, Mariners Memory, Curra Minstral, 33-1 Murray's Million.

7.05 HARTSHORNE MOTOR SERVICES LTD (WALSALL) HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,334: 2m 5f 110yd) (5)

SKY

1 1-13 AIR SHOT 58 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-10 R Johnson
2 F256 STRONG MEDICINE 111 (CD,F,S) K Bailey 10-11-6 C O'Dwyer
3 5111 DISCO DES MOTTES 55 (D,G,S) G Richards 6-11-0 P Carberry
4 -252 DESTINY CALLS 21 (BF,F,G) N Gaselee 7-10-11 R Dunwoody
5 22F1 PHILIP'S WOODY 20 (C,F,G,S) N Henderson 9-10-4 M A Fitzgerald

7-4 Disco Des Mottes, 5-2 Air Shot, 4-1 Destiny Calls, 5-1 Philip's Woody, 8-1 Strong Medicine.

7.35 NEEDHAM & JAMES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,861: 2m 110yd) (10)

SKY

1 0130 OUT RANKING 13 (D,F,G,S) J Neville 5-11-13 T Dascombe
2 1300 MOST EQUAL 34 (CD,F,S) M Pipe 7-11-13 A P McCoy
3 3112 OUT ON A PROMISE 7 (D,F) N Walker 5-11-8 N Williamson
4 3255 ISAIAH 58 (D,F,S) Mrs J Cecil 8-11-6 T Kent
5 113F SEVERN GALE 8C (CD,F,G,S) J Allen 7-11-3 X Aizpuru (5)
6 4550 KEEP ME IN MIND 13 (B,D,F,S) N Mitchell 8-11-2 J F Titley
7 2334 COOLEY'S VALVE 13 (D,F) Mrs S Williams 9-10-13 J Culloty
8 6603 NASHVILLE STAR 7 (V,D,F,G) R Mathew 6-10-9 C Llewellyn
9 1426 PAIR OF JACKS 127F (CD,BF,F,G) P Hobbs 7-10-6 R Dunwoody
10 F21- GUNNER BE GOOD 657 (CD,F) J K Cresswell 7-10-0 T Eley

7-2 Out On A Promise, 11-2 Most Equal, Isaiah, 13-2 Out Ranking, 8-1 Keep Me In Mind, Cooley's Valve, Nashville Star, Pair Of Jacks, 14-1 others.

8.05 JOHN AND NIGEL THORNE MEMORIAL CUP HUNTERS' CHASE (Amateurs: £2,108: 3m) (8)

1 11-P THE MAJOR GENERAL 77 (D,G,S) G Richards 10-12-10 A Ogden (7)
2 1U84 DESMOND GOLD 7 (D,G,S) K Pearce 9-12-0 D S Jones (7)
3 P000 FARINGO 35 (D,G) Mrs D Grissell 12-12-0 Miss C Grissell (7)
4 -543 GAY RUFFIAN 13P (G,S) Mrs D Dyson 11-12-0 Miss C Dyson (7)
5 1213 HILL ISLAND 9 (D,F,G,S) C Sweeting 10-12-0 R Sweeting (7)
6 4014 KINO 10 (C,D,G,S) A Martin 10-12-0 A Martin (7)
7 3210 TARA BOY 9 (D,F,G) R Teague 12-12-0 R Cambray (7)
8 33-1 STILLTODO 4P (D,G,S) C Wilson 10-11-9 C Wilson (7)

9-4 The Major General, 11-4 Hill Island, 4-1 Desmond Gold, 6-1 Kino, Stilltodo, 8-1 Gay Ruffian, 10-1 Tara Boy, 20-1 Faringo

8.35 A.H.P. TRAILERS WOMBOURNE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,444: 2m 110yd) (14)

1 6-43 GIPSY GEOF 13 G Hubbard 5-12-0 N Williamson
2 0212 SNOWSHILL SHAKER 10 (CD,BF,G) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-10 C Llewellyn
3 531 STONECUTTER 11F (V,D,S) M Channon 4-11-6 A Thornton
4 1153 THE LANCER 92 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 8-11-6 R Dunwoody
5 2413 SIBERIAN MYSTIC 20 (CD,BF,G) P Murphy 4-11-4 M A Fitzgerald
6 0-00 ORCHARD KING 67 O Brennan 7-11-2 R Johnson
7 0-32 NAHLA 8 (D,S) B De Haan 7-10-13 S Curran
8 5020 FAIRELAINE 5 (BF) K Bailey 5-10-12 C O'Dwyer
9 335 ANDSOME BOY 204 C Barwell 4-10-12 B Fenton
10 -044 WESTERN GENERAL 16 Miss M Milligan 6-10-11 A P McCoy
11 0-30 DOVETTO 13 A E Price 8-10-10 S Wynne
12 -060 KUMARI KING 6 A Carroll 7-10-5 D Morris
13 0203 POSITIVO 18 Miss C Caroe 6-10-3 D Leahy
14 PP00 WOODLANDS LAD TOO 63 P Pritchard 5-10-0 R Bellamy

9-2 Gipsy Geof, 5-1 Snowshill Shaker, 6-1 Siberian Mystic, 7-1 Stonecutter, Nahla, 8-1 Dovetto, 10-1 The Lancer, Western General, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Sherwood, 9 winners from 31 runners, 29.0%; M Pipe, 27 from 101, 26.7%; D Nicholson, 16 from 60, 26.7%; C Barwell, 5 from 20, 25.0%; N Henderson, 5 from 23, 21.7%.

JOCKEYS: S Wynne, 10 winners from 37 rides, 27.0%; J A McCarthy, 8 from 31, 25.8%; R Dunwoody, 21 from 102, 20.6%; A P McCoy, 17 from 89, 19.1%; C Llewellyn, 12 from 65, 18.5%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Carlisle: 3.40 Needle Match. 4.10 Toronto. Lingfield Park: 2.20 Dancing Mystery. 3.50 Worldwide Elsie. Nottingham: 6.00 Mellors. 7.20 Palamon. 7.50 Elly Fleetfoot. 8.20 Moorbird. Sedgefield: 2.30 Catton Lady. 7.35 Keep Me in Mind.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
2.10 Lakeland Pride. 2.40 Allinson's Mate. 3.10 Jack The Lad. 3.40 Rymer's Rascal. 4.10 Skyers Flyer. 4.40 Trilby.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.10 CARTOUCHE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 EBF CALDEW MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,404: 5f) (6 runners)

1 (4) ALCONLEIGH M Johnston 9-0 J Weaver –
2 (2) 2 HIRST BRIDGE 22 M W Easterby 9-0 T Lucas 99
3 (5) LAKELAND PRIDE P Evans 9-0 J F Egan –
4 (1) PETARA J Wainwright 9-0 J Bramhill (5) –
5 (6) 2 PRIX STAR 14 C Fairhurst 9-0 L Charnock 98
6 (3) 0 SEVENTH HEAVEN 36 J Berry 9-0 T E Durcan (5) –

9-4 Alconleigh, 3-1 Hirst Bridge, 7-2 Prix Star, 5-1 Lakeland Pride, 6-1 Seventh Heaven, 20-1 Petara.

2.40 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,472: 6f 206yd) (8)

1 (7) 32-2 BROCTUNE GOLD 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-13 A Culhane 99
2 (8) 4-32 KEMO SABO 4 (BF,G,S) C Parker 5-9-11 J Carroll 93
3 (1) 5210 FIRST GOLD 32 (CD,F,G,S) J Wharton 8-9-6 G Duffield 88
4 (3) -650 ALLINSON'S MATE 3 (B,CD,F,G) T Barron 9-9-5 Victoria Appleby (7) 98
5 (5) 000- INDIAN SERENADE 310 (G) R Simpson 6-9-3 M Gallagher –
6 (6) 004- MY HANDSOME PRINCE 155 (V) P Bevan 5-9-2 N Carlisle 88
7 (4) 3-3 COSCOROBA 8 J Berry 3-8-4 P Fessey (5) 85
8 (2) 0-35 CHAMPAGNE ON ICE 28 P Evans 3-8-0 J F Egan 88

2-1 Broctune Gold, 7-2 Kemo Sabo, 4-1 Allinson's Mate, 5-1 First Gold, 8-1 Coscoroba, Champagne On Ice, 10-1 others.

3.10 CARLISLE, GREAT RAILWAY CITY, 1997 HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,216: 7f 214yd) (11)

1 (4) 50-2 CARTOUCHE 11 M Prescott 9-7 G Duffield 89
2 (2) 04-5 FAUNA 22 N Graham 9-6 D McKeown 84
3 (7) -303 ABAJANY 5 M Channon 9-3 P P Murphy (5) 97
4 (5) 60-0 BEAU ROBERTO 13 M Johnston 8-13 J Weaver 90
5 (11) 33-0 STRELITZA 11 (B) M W Easterby 8-12 T Lucas 90
6 (6) 6410 JACK THE LAD 3 (F) J Hetherton 8-10 L Charnock 99
7 (1) 040- EMILY-JAYNE 303 Mrs M Reveley 8-7 A Culhane –
8 (3) 00-0 KING UNO 39 Mrs J Ramsden 8-6 J Fortune 83
9 (10) -242 TYCOON TINA 7 W Brisbourne 8-5 P Fessey (5) 85
10 (8) 00-5 SAMSPET 109 R Fahey 7-11 R Winston (7) 85
11 (9) 00-6 PETITE RISK 6 K Hogg 7-10 J Bramhill (5) 90

11-4 Abajany, 7-2 Cartouche, 4-1 Jack The Lad, 6-1 Fauna, 7-1 Beau Roberto, 8-1 Emily-Jayne, King Uno, 10-1 Tycoon Tina, 12-1 others.

3.40 BORDER ESK HANDICAP
(£2,960: 5f 207yd) (11)

1 (7) 640- BRECONGILL LAD 162 (D,F,G) Miss S Hall 5-9-11 DOUBTFUL 90
2 (8) 1625 AMRON 4 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Berry 10-9-6 T E Durcan (5) 98
3 (1) 0002 NAISSANT 5 (C,D,G,S) R McKellar 4-9-8 K Sked (7) 96
4 (10) 005 MOST RESPECTFUL 14 D Smith 4-8-12 L Charnock 95
5 (5) 0502 RYMER'S RASCAL 7 (D,S) E Alston 5-8-12 J Fortune 99
6 (3) 1600 NEEDLE MATCH 5 (B,D,G) J J O'Neill 4-8-10 J Carroll 86
7 (2) 0632 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 18 (F,G,S) R Fahey 6-8-9 A Culhane 90
8 (11) -054 BOLLIN DOROTHY 8 (G) T Easterby 4-8-8 M Birch 91
9 (9) P-05 BIRCHWOOD SUN 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) M Dods 7-8-7 J Weaver 87
10 (6) 5004 KID ORY 14 (D,G) D Chapman 6-8-3 P Fessey (5) 91
11 (4) -624 FLYING HAROLD 3 M Channon 4-8-0 J Fanning 91

3-1 Bollin Dorothy, 7-2 Amron, 5-1 Stephensons Rocket, 6-1 Rymer's Rascal, 7-1 Needle Match, Flying Harold, 8-1 Kid Ory, 10-1 others

4.10 IRTHING LIMITED STAKES (£2,542: 5f) (10)

1 (8) 0361 SHADOW JURY 4 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-6 L Charnock 89
2 (3) 2230 AFAAN 31 R Marvin 4-9-3 D McKeown 87
3 (9) 6060 ANSWERS-TO-THOMAS 7 J Jefferson 4-9-3 J Fortune 65
4 (5) -404 PETRACO 4 (D,F,G,S) N Smith 9-9-3 J Bramhill (5) 77
5 (2) 0-32 CORNICHE QUEST 5 (BF,F,G,S) M Channon 4-9-0 P P Murphy (5) 83
6 (6) 0000 SING WITH THE BAND 8 (D,F,G) B McMahon 6-9-0 G Duffield 94
7 (7) 6-00 RED ROMANCE 16 D Smith 3-8-8 A Culhane 97
8 (4) 2010 SKYERS FLYER 4 (D,F,G) Ron Thompson 3-8-8 T Williams 99
9 (1) 00-0 TORONTO 13 (B) J Berry 3-8-8 J Weaver 83
10 (10) 3600 LUNAR MUSIC 10 (D,F) Ron Thompson 3-8-5 N Connorton 80

3-1 Shadow Jury, 7-2 Corniche Quest, 4-1 Petraco, 5-1 Answers-To-Thomas, 7-1 Skyers Flyer, 8-1 Afaan, 10-1 Sing With The Band, 12-1 others

4.40 EDEN HANDICAP (£2,791: 1m 6f 32yd) (9)

1 (4) 04-0 TRILBY 29 (F) G Richards 4-9-10 A Culhane 97
2 (2) 434/ WELL APPOINTED 9J (F) B Mactaggart 8-9-7 J Carroll –
3 (1) /060 TONNERRE 10 (D,S) B McMahon 5-9-3 J Fortune 96
4 (7) -065 LORD HASTIE 5 (D,BF,F,G,S) C Thornton 9-9-3 D McKeown 98
5 (8) /00- LADY SWIFT 7J K Hogg 6-8-6 J Bramhill (5) –
6 (6) 2113 ALL ON 1 (BF,F,G) J Hetherton 6-8-6 (5ex) G Duffield 98
7 (3) 60-0 HIGHFIELD FIZZ 16 (D,F,G) C Fairhurst 5-8-4 L Charnock 79
8 (9) 545 CHARITY CRUSADER 34 (B,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-0 P Fessey (5) 99
9 (5) 00-3 RECLUSE 7 (B,F) W Kemp 6-7-10 N Carlisle 80

2-1 All On, 4-1 Lord Hastie, 5-1 Trilby, 6-1 Well Appointed, 7-1 Tonnerre, 10-1 Charity Crusader, Highfield Fizz, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Channon, 14 winners from 25 runners, 56.0%; M Prescott, 10 from 25, 40.0%; Miss S Hall, 3 from 9, 33.3%; Mrs J Ramsden, 13 from 52, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 64, 23.4%; P Evans, 6 from 30, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: G Duffield, 12 winners from 72 rides, 16.7%; A Culhane, 4 from 24, 16.7%; P J Fessey, 3 from 21, 14.3%; J Weaver, 7 from 50, 14.0%; J Fortune, 10 from 83, 12.0%.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER
6.00 Meranti. 6.25 Soviet Leader. 6.50 Star. 7.20 Cyrian. 7.50 Tonka. 8.20 Tango King.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 6.25 Soviet Leader.

GOING: GOOD SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.00 COLWICK PARK APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£1,985: 6f 15yd) (18 runners)

1 140- CROESO CYNNES 245 (D,F,G) B Palling 4-10-0 C Lowther (5) 3
2 3-34 NINEACRES 4 (V,F,G) N Babbage 6-9-8 Sophie Mitchell 15
3 5200 MELLORS 28 (V,D,G) M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-4 J Fowle (5) 14
4 10-6 BATALEUR 14 (D,S) Miss J Bower 4-9-3 R Mullen 5
5 0-25 MILLESIME 5 (F) M Wane 5-8-13 G Parkin 6
6 0141 MERANTI 21 (CD,F) J Bradley 4-8-13 R Ffrench (3) 12
7 056- EXPECTATION 191 P R Webber 3-8-12 David O'Neill (5) 11
8 25-4 MOVE SMARTLY 8 (V,C,F) Mrs L Stubbs 7-8-11 G Faulkner 17
9 0-00 NELLIE NORTH 10 (B,G) G McCourt 4-8-11 A Eddery (3) 8
10 000 LEIGH CROFTER 1 (B,D,F,G,S) P Cundell 8-8-8 Aimee Cook (3) 13
11 0060 LOCHON 16 (D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-8-6 Jo Hunnam (3) 1
12 0-60 ROYAL EMBLEM 11 A Foster 3-8-3 G Milligan (3) 18
13 61 POLGWYNNE 69 (G) B Smart 3-8-2 A Daly 4
14 6434 SWEET MATE 18 (B,D,G) S Bowring 5-8-2 F Boyle (7) 10
15 0655 AQUATIC QUEEN 10 R Weaver 3-8-1 T Field (5) 2
16 00-0 GAY BREEZE 31 P Felgate 4-8-0 D Williams (7) 7
17 000- GREAT HALL 344 (D,F,G) P Cundell 8-7-12 C Cogan (5) 9
18 565- LORINS GOLD 254 (D,F) A Turnell 7-7-10 P Doe (5) 15

5-1 Meranti, 8-1 Croeso Cynnes, Nineacres, Millesime, 10-1 Polgwynne, 12-1 Mellors, Move Smartly, Leigh Crofter, 16-1 others

6.25 BRITISH BUS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,226: 6f 15yd) (13)

SKY

1 00- ALPINE MUSIC 221 J Bradley 9-0 R Ffrench (5) 3
2 -022 ALWAYS ALIGHT 13 (B) K Burke 9-0 J F Egan 1
3 45 BISON BELTING 11 J Glover 9-0 T Pengkerego (7) 2
4 0- FREDERICK JAMES 212 M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 S Drowne 9
5 02-5 OCKER 17 M Tompkins 9-0 R Cochrane 13
6 0-0 SEA YA MAITE 11 S Bowring 9-0 S Webster 10
7 0 SOVIET LEADER 22 R Guest 9-0 L Dettori 11
8 TELLION W Hern 9-0 T Sprake 7
9 BLUE CHEESE Mrs N Macauley 8-9 D O'Donohoe (3) 8
10 FARLEY GREEN H Candy 8-9 C Rutter 12
11 6-0 HIPPY CHICK 17 J Jenkins 8-9 B Doyle 5
12 32- INFLATION 272 (BF) R Johnson Houghton 8-9 J Reid 4
13 PROSPERING J Smyth-Osbourne 8-9 D Harrison 6

11-4 Ocker, 7-2 Tellion, 4-1 Inflation, 13-2 Always Alight, 10-1 others

6.50 E B F NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,600: 5f 13yd) (9)

SKY

1 0431 MY BET 11 (D,G) M W Easterby 8-12 G Parkin (5) 4
2 HIGH GAIN P Howling 8-8 Paul Eddery 7
3 JAYBEE SILVER M Tompkins 8-8 D Biggs 3
4 LADY ANNA J Jenkins 8-8 B Doyle 2
5 50 MAGICAL DANCER 20 Mrs P Dutfield 8-8 S Drowne 1
6 50 POSITIVE AIR 13 B McMahon 8-8 K Fallon 6
7 SCOLDING K Morgan 8-8 R Cochrane 5
8 STAR M Jarvis 8-8 L Dettori 8
9 0 SUMMER DAY BLUES 23 C Murray 8-8 J Reid 9

5-2 My Bet, 4-1 Jaybee Silver, 7-1 Lady Anna, 15-2 Positive Air, Star, 8-1 Scolding, 10-1 High Gain, 12-1 others.

7.20 WEATHERBYS PRODUCTION SERVICES LIMITED STAKES
(£3,391: 1m 1f 213yd) (6)

SKY

1 50P- ALAFLAK 244 (D,F) W Hern 6-9-8 T Sprake 6
2 1-60 PALAMON 16 (B,D,F) J White 4-9-8 W J O'Connor 2
3 2-00 TROJAN RISK 16 (F) G Lewis 4-9-8 Paul Eddery 3
4 60-5 CAPILANO PRINCESS 10 (F,S) D Haydn Jones 4-9-5 S Drowne 4
5 1 CYRIAN 62 (G) P Cole 3-8-9 T Quinn 1
6 45-0 DAWAM ALLAIL 28 M Jarvis 3-8-7 R Cochrane 5

11-4 Cyrian, 100-30 Alaflak, 7-2 Trojan Risk, 5-1 Capilano Princess, 7-1 Palamon, Dawam Allail

7.50 STUDENTS IN HALF PRICE HANDICAP (£2,277: 1m 1f 213yd) (18)

SKY

1 0-15 WHAT A FUSS 74 (G) B Hanbury 4-10-0 J Stack 4
2 10-0 TONKA 13 (D,F,S) P Makin 5-9-12 D Harrison 15
3 -000 LILA PEDIGO 11 (D,G) Miss J Craze 4-9-12 R Ffrench (5) 2
4 10-6 SALTANDO 35 (F,G) Pat Mitchell 6-9-12 Martin Dwyer (3) 13
5 40-0 KRISTAL BREEZE 44 (D,F,G,S) W Muir 5-9-10 J Reid 14
6 -230 JEAN PIERRE 7 J Pearce 4-9-10 L Dettori 7
7 053- ERRANT 147 (D,G) D Cosgrove 5-9-8 D O'Donohoe (3) 11
8 0564 BENTICO 13 (D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-7 S Webster 5
9 10-0 NORTH BEAR 18 (F) G McCourt 5-9-7 R Studholme (7) 8
10 0-10 CASHAPLENTY 41 (G) N Littmoden 4-9-6 T G McLaughlin 3
11 00-0 ELLY FLEETFOOT 55 (V,G) G L Moore 5-9-5 S Whitworth 18
12 41-1 ARCATURA 118 (D,G) C James 5-9-5 C Rutter 17
13 00-0 IRISH KINSMAN 4 G Yardley 4-9-4 C Lowther (7) 9
14 103- COMEDY RIVER 171 (D,F,G) N Berry 10-9-4 G Hind 10
15 0-03 NICOLA'S PRINCESS 13 (G) B McMahon 4-9-4 K Fallon 12
16 0041 GOLD LANCE 23 (F) R O'Sullivan 4-9-4 R Cochrane 6
17 00-6 GOLDEN FAWN 41 N Babbage 4-9-4 V Slattery 1
18 110- DOUBLE RUSH 129 (D,BF,F,G) T Mills 5-9-4 T Quinn 16

13-2 Gold Lance, 8-1 Kristal Breeze, Arcatura, 10-1 What A Fuss, Tonka, Jean Pierre, Bentico, 14-1 others

8.20 NEXT GENERATION OF RACEGOERS HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,252: 1m 6f 15yd) (17)

1 00-2 TANGO KING 39 (BF) J Dunlop 9-7 L Dettori 3
2 10-6 SWALLOW BREEZE 13 (C,F) J Scargill 9-6 D O'Donohoe (3) 1
3 4112 TOUCH'N'GO 32 (BF,G) M Johnston 9-5 J Weaver 17
4 524 MOUNTAINEER 27 (BF) M Bell 9-2 M Fenton 8
5 004- LE GRAND GOUSIER 197 R Williams 9-1 R Cochrane 6
6 0-05 MOORBIRD 27 (V) J L Harris 9-0 K Fallon 10
7 000- CLEAR THE AIR 241 P Cole 8-11 T Quinn 13
8 0-04 WILDMOOR 15 J Bethell 8-8 J Reid 7
9 00-5 JUCINDA 25 J Pearce 8-8 B Doyle 15
10 0-50 MAZARA 21 A Foster 8-7 T Sprake 11
11 4320 SPONDULICKS 1 B Baugh 8-6 R Perham 16
12 00-0 BISQUET-DE-BOUCHE 74 R Dickin 8-2 C Rutter 5
13 0-50 WARRIOR KING 28 Mrs P Dutfield 8-2 S Drowne 9
14 0305 MAREMMA 15 E Incisa 7-13 Kim Tinkler 4
15 000- MELLWOOD 188 M Tompkins 7-12 Dale Gibson 14
16 -644 ALMERIAM 39 J White 7-11 M Baird (3) 2
17 00-0 FIRST MAN 10 B Llewellyn 7-10 J Lowe 12

11-4 Tango King, 5-1 Touch'n'go, 13-2 Mountaineer, 8-1 Clear The Air, 10-1 Swallow Breeze, Jucinda, 14-1 Le Grand Gousier, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Babbage, 3 winners from 11 runners, 27.3%; J Dunlop, 18 from 106, 17.0%; M Jarvis, 5 from 30, 16.7%; M Wane, 3 from 18, 16.7%; P Makin, 5 from 31, 16.1%; M Johnston, 8 from 57, 14.0%; M Bell, 9 from 68, 13.2%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 25 winners from 130 rides, 19.2%; J Reid, 13 from 78, 16.7%; Paul Eddery, 12 from 76, 15.8%; T Quinn, 13 from 85, 15.3%; S Webster, 3 from 22, 13.6%; K Fallon, 16 from 126, 12.7%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
1.50 Pengamon
2.20 Willow Dale
2.50 Whisky Mack
3.20 Crown Court
3.50 Classic Beauty
4.20 Musharak
4.50 MARCH CRUSADER (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.20 CHEWIT.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.20 Crown Court.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.50 KAHYASI HANDICAP (All-weather: £3,646: 1m) (12 runners)

101 (11) 236-00 BANZHAF 35 (CD,G) [illegible] G L Moore 4-10-2 Candy Morris 85
102 (4) 21-135 SOAKING 57 (CD,F,G) (P Saunders) M Usher 7-9-11 D R McCabe 96
103 (5) 335- PRIME LIGHT 342 (Renton Racing) G Wragg 4-9-11 M Hills 90
104 (3) 20-000 PENGAMON 23 (CD,F,G) (Mrs A Smallman) H Collingridge 5-9-10 J Quinn 99
105 (7) 21221- FARMOST 257 (D,F,G,S) (W Dunn) M Prescott 4-9-8 S Sanders 98
106 (9) 1500-2 YOUNG ANNABEL 32 (G) [illegible] C Dwyer 4-9-7 G Carter 96
107 (8) 00020- SAND STAR 212 (C,G) (Mrs T Perry) D Haydn Jones 5-9-6 A Clark 88
108 (10) 201420 KI CHI SAGA 18 (CD,BF,G,S) (D Knight) M Madgwick 5-9-1 D Holland 96
109 (2) 105415 SWEET SUPPOSIN 35 (V,CD,BF,G) (G Middlemiss) C Dwyer 6-9-0 L Dettori 98
110 (12) 06-260 [illegible] BOY 44 (G) [illegible] 4-8-12 T Quinn 96
111 (5) 215450 HAWAII STORM 43 (CD,G,S) (C Capon) D French Davis 9-8-5 Kerry Baker (7) 97
112 (6) 40020' RESIST THE FORCE 112J [illegible] C Cyzer 7-6-5 D Biggs –

BETTING: 11-4 Farmost, 7-2 Sweet Supposin, 7-1 Prime Light, 8-1 Soaking, 10-1 Young Annabel, 12-1 others

FORM FOCUS

BANZHAF 12l last of 7 to Barbason in handicap here (7f, firm). SOAKING 6¾l 5th of 9 to Sticks in claimer here (AW, 7f). PRIME LIGHT 2½l 5th of 15 to Gold Spats in maiden at Kempton (7f, good to firm). PENGAMON 5¼l 9th of 12 to Chickawicka in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good). FARMOST best Shahal ½l in 15-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yd) with SWEET SUPPOSIN (19lb better off) 20l 6th. KI CHI SAGA best effort 2½l 2nd of 12 to BARBASON in handicap here (AW, 1m) on penultimate start.
Selection: PENGAMON (nap)

2.20 GOLDEN HORSESHOE HANDICAP (£3,018: 5f) (14 runners)

201 (14) 000-55 WILLOW DALE 16 (D,F,S) [illegible] D Elsworth 4-9-11 T Quinn 95
202 (11) 000420 MIJAS 16 (C,D,F,G) [illegible] L Montague Hall 4-9-10 P Lynch (3) 98
203 (7) 20265- SHAVINSKY 204 (Long Side Racing) P Howling 4-9-5 M Roberts 91
204 (13) 0-1150 RIFFI 14 (D,G) (Brooks and Surridge) [illegible] 4-9-6 S Whitworth 97
205 (3) 04-000 MINDRACE 14 (D,F) [illegible] K Ivory 4-9-6 Martin Dwyer (3) 93
206 (1) 3443-6 THIRD PARTY 17 (V) [illegible] S Dow 3-9-5 W Ryan 88
207 (2) 4221-0 HALF TONE 14 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs G Tonnemann) R Flower 5-9-0 Dane O'Neill 91
208 (5) 055-0 DAINTREE 15 (G) [illegible] 3-9-0 M Rimmer 89
209 (6) 00-050 POLLY GOLIGHTLY 13 (B,D,F,G) (D Sykes) M Blanshard 4-8-11 K Darley 90
210 (12) 633-63 JOHN O'DREAMS 10 (D,F,G,S) [illegible] Mrs A King 12-8-8 T Sprake 91
211 (13) 0-6020 RUNS IN THE FAMILY 1 (B,S) [illegible] G McCourt 5-8-4 D Harrison 99
212 (4) 04-0 DANCING MYSTERY 31 (B) (Austin Stroud Ltd) E Wheeler 3-8-1 A Daly (5) 88
213 (8) -00000 BAPTISMAL ROCK 18 [illegible] 3-8-0 J Quinn –
214 (3) 564330 SUPERLAO 44 (D,F,G) [illegible] J Bridger 5-7-10 F Norton 83

Long handicap: Superlao 7-6

BETTING: 7-2 Runs In The Family, 6-1 John O'Dreams, 7-1 Willow Dale, Mijas, 9-1 Riffi, 10-1 Half Tone, Polly Golightly, 16-1 others

FORM FOCUS

MIJAS best effort ¾l 2nd of 7 to Lord Sky in handicap here (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. SHAVINSKY 9¼l 5th of 6 to Saheeel in maiden at Yarmouth (5f, good). THIRD PARTY about 7l 6th of 10 to Peppoll in auction maiden at Folkestone (6f, good to firm). HALF TONE best effort beat Square Comic 2l in 12-runner handicap at Sandown (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start, with SUPERLAO (1lb better off) 6¾l 8th. JOHN O'DREAMS 3½l 3rd of 13 to Intiaash in handicap at Bath (5f, good to firm). RUNS IN THE FAMILY 2l 2nd of 18 to Fame Again in handicap at Nottingham (6f, good).
Selection: JOHN O'DREAMS

2.50 RACING CHANNEL STEVE WOOD MEMORIAL NOVICE STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,064: 5f) (9 runners)

301 (3) 51 SMOOTH SAILING 13 (D,G) (A Parrish) K McAuliffe 9-4 J Reid 90
302 (8) 123 PRINCE FOLEY 10 (D,BF,F) (Foley Steelstock) W G M Turner 9-0 D McGaffin (7) 99
303 (1) 0 BASIC STYLE 13 (M Moore) N Callaghan 8-12 S Drowne –
304 (4) HIGHBURY LEGEND (Mrs J Woods) B Jones 8-12 N Day –
305 (6) HIGH MONEY (Highclere Racing Ltd) S Lewis 8-12 Paul Eddery –
306 (7) 6 SERGEANT IMP 4 (W Mann) P Mitchell 8-12 M Henry (3) 80
307 (5) 3 WHISKY MACK 10 (BF) (Wizarding Team) R Hannon 8-12 Dane O'Neill 81
308 (2) ENGLISH LADY (English Lady Classics) M Haynes 8-7 T Quinn –
309 (9) 450 SOLWAY LASS 10 (B Leverdon) P Eccles 8-7 C Rutter 75

BETTING: 15-8 Whisky Mack, 9-4 Smooth Sailing, 4-1 Prince Foley, 8-1 High Money, 14-1 Basic Style, 16-1 Highbury Legend, 20-1 others

FORM FOCUS

SMOOTH SAILING beat Ron's Pet neck in 10-runner maiden at Sandown (5f, good) with BASIC STYLE (6lb better off) 12l 10th. PRINCE FOLEY 2½l 3rd of 11 to Rusty Babe in novice at Nottingham (5f, good). SERGEANT IMP about 7l 6th of 8 to Another Fantasy in maiden at Kempton (5f, good). WHISKY MACK about 5l 3rd of 11 to Ballet Rambert in maiden at Bath (5f, good to firm) with SOLWAY LASS (3lb worse off) 13l 10th. SOLWAY LASS best effort 7½l 4th of 10 to Lady Moll in auction maiden at Folkestone (5f, good)
Selection: SMOOTH SAILING

3.20 HAVANA HORSE UK LIMITED STAKES
(£5,163: 7f 140yd) (7 runners)

401 (4) 6040-0 AL ABRAQ 20 (F) (Abbott Partners) J Hills 4-9-7 D Holland 98
402 (1) 03-225 CHEWIT 9 (CD,F,G) (Ballard 1834 Ltd) G L Moore 5-9-7 Candy Morris 99
403 (2) 63130- CROWN COURT 216 (D,G) (Lord De La Warr) L Cumani 4-9-7 L Dettori 95
404 (7) /2000- LYNTON LAD 345 (G) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 5-9-7 T Quinn 84
405 (6) 06141- MOVE WITH EDES 265 (F,G) (W Ede & Co) W G M Turner 5-9-7 D Sweeney (5) 76
406 (5) 21006- LILLI CLAIRE 238 (D,F,G) (C Leafe) A Foster 4-9-4 T Sprake 92
407 (3) 0810-0 WHITTLE ROCK 48 (F,G) (Bay Horse Racing) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-4 K Darley 96

BETTING: 5-4 Crown Court, 5-2 Chewit, 8-1 Al Abraq, Whittle Rock, 10-1 Lilli Claire, 16-1 Move With Edes, 25-1 Lynton Lad

FORM FOCUS

AL ABRAQ 23l 14th of 19 to Hawksley Hill in handicap at Newbury (1m, good to firm). CHEWIT 7½l 5th of 25 to Tregaron in handicap at Ascot (7f, good to firm). CROWN COURT best effort beat Emily-Mou 5l in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good) Jul 96. *MOVE WITH EDES* beat Twin Creeks short-head in 11-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f). LILLI CLAIRE about 6¼l 6th of 8 to Polar Prince in conditions race at Goodwood (7f, good). WHITTLE ROCK best effort beat Trafalgar Lady 1l in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good), Aug 96.
Selection: *CROWN COURT*

3.50 LADY O FILLIES HANDICAP
(All-weather: £3,044: 1m 2f) (12 runners)

501 (6) 13322- BUBBLE WINGS 198 (C,F,G) (F Chan) S Woods 5-10-0 W Ryan 86
502 (11) 132095 MONO LADY 13 (B,D,G,S) (Monolithic Refractories) D Haydn Jones 4-9-7 A Clark 92
503 (7) 1650-3 CLASSIC BEAUTY 15 (F) (Wyclose) S Williams 4-9-2 K Darley 90
504 (1) 512130 CALENDULA 35 (G) (C Spence) D Morley 4-9-1 G Carter 90
505 (12) -43026 MIMOSA 9 (F) (W Alexander) S Dow 4-9-0 T Quinn 97
506 (5) -12230 SHANGHAI LIL 13 (C,BF,G) (G & Dragon) M F-Godley 5-8-13 F Norton 91
507 (3) 0-5050 WORLDWIDE ELSIE 4 (B,F,G) (Classic Bloodstock) I Campbell 4-8-13 R Price 98
508 (8) 50400- SANDICLIFFE 257 (Mrs J Woodhouse) B Hills 4-8-8 M Hills 90
509 (9) 53000- ALISURA 140 (Miss J Feilden) D Thom 4-8-7 N Varley 95
510 (10) 00-500 PEARL DAWN 3 (F,G) (Mrs E Keep) P Clarke 7-7-12 N Adams 99
511 (4) 000-0 BIBA 39 (A Foustok) R Boss 3-7-10 J Quinn –
512 (2) 065035 EFFICACIOUS 18 (B) (Tidmarsh Racing) P Eccles 4-7-10 J Lowe 91

Long handicap: Biba 7-7, Efficacious 7-4

BETTING: 4-1 Classic Beauty, 9-2 Shanghai Lil, 11-2 Bubble Wings, 6-1 Mimosa, 7-1 Mono Lady, 8-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BUBBLE WINGS ½l 2nd of 10 to Omara in handicap at Yarmouth (1m 2f, good to firm). MONO LADY about 10l 5th of 18 to Kinnescash in handicap at Leicester (1m 2f, good to soft). CALENDULA best effort beat MONO LADY short-head in 6-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f), Feb 97. MIMOSA best effort 1½l 2nd of 6 to Sylvan Princess in handicap at Leicester (1m, firm) on penultimate start. SHANGHAI LIL best effort 1¾l 3rd of 10 to Anak-Ku in handicap here (AW, 1m 2f) on penultimate start.
Selection: MIMOSA

4.20 TEENOSO MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: £3,646: 7f) (12 runners)

601 (12) ROCK FALCON (E Reitel) Lady Herries 4-9-10 A Clark –
602 (3) BARBURY BALLAD (Barbury Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 3-8-12 S Sanders –
603 (10) 5-5 GHARIB 15 (A al-Maktoum) A Stewart 3-8-12 M Roberts 85
604 (8) GIKO (V V Pins) Miss G Kelleway 3-8-12 Angela Gallimore (7) –
605 (5) 00- MOWJOOD 256 (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-12 K Darley –
606 (2) 40-2 MUSHARAK 41 (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-12 R Hills 99
607 (11) 6 NIGHT EXPRESS 15 (R McAulay) B Hanbury 3-8-12 M Rimmer –
608 (6) 53 PRINCE ZANDO 17 (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 3-8-12 M Fenton 74
609 (4) 00- SHARP DEED 200 (P Hamman) P Makin 3-8-12 D Holland 70
610 (1) 0- FLYING COLOURS 193 (Mrs G Baker) C Benstead 3-8-7 A McGlone –
611 (7) 60 LITTLE ANNIE 17 (Mrs L Jones) G L Moore 3-8-7 Candy Morris 50
612 (9) 6- MY GIRL LUCY 310 (Mrs P Mitchell) P Mitchell 3-8-7 M Henry (3) –

BETTING: 13-8 Musharak, 7-2 Gharib, 8-1 Mowjood, 10-1 Night Express, Prince Zando, 14-1 Giko, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

GHARIB 8½l 5th of 11 to Teofilio in maiden at Beverley (1m 100yd, good to firm). MOWJOOD 20l 10th of 13 to Redwing in maiden at Newcastle (7f, good). MUSHARAK neck 2nd of 9 to Romanov in maiden at Haydock (7f, soft). PRINCE ZANDO 4¾l 3rd of 10 to Peppoll in auction maiden at Folkestone (6f, good to firm) with LITTLE ANNIE 13l 9th. FLYING COLOURS 25l last of 11 to Miss Sancerre in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to soft). LITTLE ANNIE about 19¼l last of 6 to Inicab in maiden here (5f, firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: MUSHARAK

4.50 TEENOSO MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: £3,646: 7f) (12 runners)

1 (9) 0 PERFECT PAL 90J (BF) (Whitcombe Manor) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-10 N Day –
2 (2) 040500 FANCY DESIGN 43 (V) (Mrs V Harris) P Mitchell 4-9-5 M Roberts –
3 (7) 3- KEEN COMPANION 175 (S Summons) T Naughton 4-9-5 J D Smith (3) 83
4 (3) 0- ARDENT 197 (R Lamb) C Benstead 3-8-12 A McGlone –
5 (11) DURABLE GEORGE (Mrs J Stamp) J Bridger 3-8-12 F Norton –
6 (5) 0 MARCH CRUSADER 31 (M al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 3-8-12 W Ryan –
7 (10) 64-5 PRAEDITUS 20 (B Kilpatrick) R Hannon 3-8-12 Dane O'Neill 99
8 (12) 5-0 REGAL THUNDER 24 (Mrs R Savill) M Stoute 3-8-12 K Darley 94
9 (1) SECRET STRENGTH (Angmering Park Stud) Lady Herries 3-8-12 D O'Shea –
10 (8) 0- SUCH BOLDNESS 193 (Mrs M O'Shea) R Akehurst 3-8-12 A Clark –
11 (6) BALFOUR LADY (Buckingham Pine) J Toller 3-8-7 S Sanders –
12 (4) 00 MISS IMP 4 (W Mann) P Mitchell 3-8-7 M Henry (3) –

BETTING: 7-2 Praeditus, Regal Thunder, 6-1 Keen Companion, March Crusader, 10-1 Ardent, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

PERFECT PAL 31l 10th of 13 to *Classy Chief* in maiden here (AW, 1m 5f). FANCY DESIGN best effort 6¾l 5th of 7 to Justinianus in seller here (AW, 6f) Feb 97. KEEN COMPANION 11l 3rd of 9 to Persuasion in auction maiden here (AW, 1m 2f). PRAEDITUS about 12l 5th of 15 to Rashik in maiden at Newbury (1m, good to firm). REGAL THUNDER best effort 5¾l 5th of 16 to Machinist in maiden at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). SUCH BOLDNESS 21l 8th of 18 to MAYLANE in maiden over course and distance (good to soft).
Selection: PRAEDITUS

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs M Reveley	3	7	42.9	K Darley	9	36	25.0
A Stewart	6	18	33.3	L Dettori	88	353	24.9
G Wragg	10	36	27.8	D Holland	45	182	24.7
M Prescott	24	103	23.3	W Ryan	29	157	18.5
Lady Herries	8	36	22.2	S Whitworth	40	248	16.1

هكذا من الاصل

Graveney's new dawn awaits warmer welcome

Alan Lee meets the chairman of selectors on his long-distance attempts to find cricket to watch

Graveney: frustrated

Among the handful of shivering souls at Headingley yesterday was a tall man wearing an extremely old wax jacket and a newly-acquired look of expressive suffering. The international season has not yet begun, but David Graveney is fast learning the frustrations of being chairman of selectors.

Graveney had not seen a ball bowled this week, despite clocking *up hundreds of motorway miles*, and the waterlogged state of the Yorkshire ground told him his luck was not about to alter. Even before *the official abandonment of the* second day's play against Glamorgan, he had pointed his car south-west towards Bristol and the distant hope of cricket.

Three hours later, on arrival at Gloucestershire's match with *Hampshire, he knew that his day* was fated. "The rain began as I pulled into the car park," Graveney *reported*. "I think I shall now retire for the day."

His fellow selectors, Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch, have *also endured wasted journeys this* week, as a capricious spring continues to undermine the fixture list. "There is nothing we can do but keep *turning up*," Graveney *said*. "I am a great believer in listening to people and this has at least given me plenty of time for that."

Graveney, indeed, is reforming the image of the selection process by his accessibility and openness. Along with the England committee *chairman, Bob Bennett, he is* encouraging the players to feel that they have an audience at management level. He is also consulting widely within the game, canvassing views on pitches, policy and personnel for the series against Australia.

On Wednesday, *he* visited two Test match grounds, Edgbaston and Old Trafford, and he will make a point of seeing them all at appropriate times. While it has always been English custom to shrink from preparing pitches that could inconvenience the opposition, Graveney has a firm view about the type of surfaces on which his team *should play* and *intends* to convey it to every ground authority.

Whether he will receive much sympathy at Edgbaston, where the *priority, after two highly-criticised* Test pitches, is simply to make the match last five days, must be questionable.

A week *tomorrow, the selectors* must choose their first squad of the summer, for the three Texaco *Trophy one-day internationals* starting at Headingley on May 22. Before then, Graveney will criss-cross the country a few more times, a commitment to see and being seen that was not always shared by his immediate predecessor. He must also fit in some surgery on a leg ailment, but it was not the travel nor the operation that brought a frown *to his face yesterday, so* much as the state of England's leading players.

The batting, especially, is in a *mess, with either form or fitness* concerns over every senior player. Chiefly because of this, the selectors may expand their party from the *usual 14 to 15*. They may also decide that the time is right for some new faces, in which event I expect to see *Chris Adams* given a *chance to* fulfill his evident potential at the top of the order.

No one has ever doubted the potential of Mark Ramprakash, either, but his big-match temperament is another matter. *He has a* champion in Gatting, however, and as he has begun the season prolifically, there is a case for reviving his international career in a *one-day environment, where* he would have no time to fret and freeze, rather than in the elongated tension of a Test match.

Ramprakash's prospects are rising daily, in direct proportion to the decline of those who toured ahead of him last winter. Graveney *shakes* his head over the litany of low scores and misadventure that has assailed his established batsmen and his *greatest hope is that* the finger injury restricting Alec Stewart does not prevent him keeping wicket, for this would *require* wholesale reorganisation of the Texaco side.

Of the others, Michael Atherton and John Crawley are in the poorest form. Crawley's *scores in the* Benson and Hedges Cup are 0, 2, 0 and 0, while Atherton's fortunes were exemplified when he strained a hamstring last week and was *run out, blame*lessly, when *his runner* went walkabout at square-leg.

Nasser Hussain has missed several matches with a neck injury and Nick Knight *failed yesterday* on his *comeback* from the badly broken hand that he sustained in New Zealand. Graham Thorpe has not yet sparkled and *Graeme Hick's* aggregate of 94 runs from seven innings is no encouragement towards what would, in any event, be a controversial selection.

The batting places, then, are still to be claimed over the coming week. Graveney just hopes to be present when *weather* and *form* take a turn for the better, allowing his brow to clear and that wax jacket to be put away for the winter.

Champions made to suffer by Newport

By Simon Wilde

WORCESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 215 runs behind Worcestershire

A SUPERB spell by Phil Newport, the veteran Worcestershire seam bowler, left Leicestershire in a position of rare embarrassment yesterday. Newport took four wickets in 21 balls to help to reduce the county champions to 33 for five in reply to a total of 257, which, on a slow pitch offering pronounced movement for the bowler of medium pace, is looking more imposing the longer the game goes on.

Another frustrating sequence of showers restricted play to 43 overs. When the last, and heaviest, fall of rain brought the players off at 4.40pm, Leicestershire were *42 for five and unless the* weather greatly improves they ought to avoid a first championship defeat since last June. However, if they fail to reach the follow-on target of 108, Worcestershire could yet force a win.

With Haynes and Newport fit again, Worcestershire look a revitalised side. Haynes, *who finished unbeaten on 47* after three hours of solid resistance, did not appear in the championship last year and Newport played only five times because of back and Achilles tendon injuries, the latter *necessitating an opera*tion. Even in his sixteenth season of county cricket, Newport *retains his enthusiasm* and, at 34, remains, on his day, as good a traditional English seam bowler as there is.

He gave away nothing yesterday and struck his initial *blow with the first ball after* lunch, bringing one back sharply to trap the left-handed Sutcliffe leg-before. Two overs later, he produced an immaculate outswinger to locate the edge of Habib's bat and Hick, with his customary ease, pouched the catch low to his left at second slip.

His next ball was even better, jagging off the seam *and luring Wells into giving* Rhodes the thinnest of catches at the wicket. Before he departed, Wells, the acting Leicestershire captain, glared in disbelief at the spot on which the ball pitched.

Johnson prevented the hat-trick without confidence, but Newport was not to be denied his wicket for long. Two overs *later, he moved* the ball back into the left-hander and won his second leg-before decision *from the umpire, Ken Palmer*.

Shortly after that, Sheriyar, the left-arm seam bowler who was lending Newport excel*lent support, got in the act by* having Maddy caught in the slips, also by Hick. Sheriyar, 23, has always been capable of generating a lively head of steam, but against his former county he complemented this *by consistently putting the ball* in the right place. Perhaps all he needs to do to turn himself into a really decent bowler is to cut down his extraordinarily long run-up.

Macmillan and Nixon, the *last two recognised Leicester*shire batsmen, were together when the abandonment came and, in view of the fact that they are without two first-choice batsmen in Whitaker, their captain, and Smith, it *will be a good test of the side's* character today.

The solidity of the Leicestershire batting was one of the features of their title-winning campaign — they only once failed to score more than 250 *in the first innings — so the* bother they find themselves in here is a relatively new experience. When they last played Worcestershire they achieved their highest total at Grace Road, 638 for eight.

Earlier, Worcestershire added 58 for the loss of their last four wickets. The biggest partnership of the innings, 76 between Haynes and Rhodes, was broken by Johnson, who finished with three wickets. Millns also claimed three and Mullally four. Well as they bowled, they were to be put in the shade by Newport.

GRAHAM MORRIS

Cunliffe, *the promising* Gloucestershire batsman, deals firmly with a ball from Udal as the hovering close fielders wait for a mistake

Carefree Lynch provides upbeat tempo

By James Allen

BRISTOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 173 runs behind Hampshire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE did their best yesterday to inject the sense of urgency that this match had been crying out for. Until they embarked upon their reply to Hampshire's total of 316, three runs *an over had been a promised* land which had looked unreachable.

*From the outset, Glouces*tershire accepted the need to force the pace, especially as the rain, to which 20 overs were lost, was a constant threat. The same could not be said of the Hampshire bowling, with only Connor among the faster men having any sort *of track record. Renshaw had* Trainor taken at short leg, but Wright made serene progress until he was caught *in* two minds and played on to a short one from Mascarenhas, knowing a decent score had gone begging.

With Lynch entering the fray, there was no danger of a period of retrenchment. An airy swish outside the off stump marked his arrival, an edge to the third-man boundary was *his first scoring* stroke. Thereafter, it was nothing but the sweetness of *timing and lordly air that* have been the defining features of his batting since his career *in* county cricket started 20 years ago.

When others might have had their eye on the close and their thoughts on the morrow, he was repeatedly lashing *Stephenson to the cover* boundary. As the light deteriorated, he pulled Renshaw *past square leg for his tenth* four, which brought up his half-century. He had needed only 44 balls. Perhaps it was out of consideration for Cunliffe, who had been more studious, that he was then *happy to accept the umpires'* offer as the weather closed in.

At the start of the day, Gloucestershire needed to dislodge the last four Hampshire batsmen, but they lasted the best part of 90 minutes. Lawrence bellowed *encour*agement and threw his giant frame full length at *mid-off to make one earth-shaking stop*. However, when the new ball became available, he managed only three overs with it before departing with a calf strain, the cold and *the exer*tions *of his comeback having* caught up with him.

Largely thanks to Udal, *Hampshire were able to crawl* past 300, though no one could accuse him of not trying to be positive. Dropped by Lynch when he made one attacking foray, he fell to Young attempting another. The Tas*manian accepted the return* catch above his head with an assured nonchalance. A third wicket, when he found the edge of Renshaw's flashing blade, was no less than he deserved for an economic *mixture of swing and seam*.

Among the younger Hampshire batsmen, there are some *reputations to* be cemented this season. Laney has attracted good notices, while Ken*dall* has scored consistently since making a century for Oxford in the University Match last year. Here he persevered, a pillar of obduracy for 2½ hours while making 47. *His departure* did little to enliven proceedings, Mascarenhas soon offering the tamest of chances to give Smith a fourth wicket.

In the morning, rain seemed likely to play a leading *role on three occasions* before retreating to the wings. Twice the umpires headed for the pavilion before doing an about-turn *almost immediate*ly. By this time, though, the covers were on their way out *and some of the players had* reached the dressing-room. Others had stayed out in the middle, hands on hips, reluctant to leave their posts. The county grounds of England are the natural habitat of such eccentricity.

Essex give Randall lesson in scoring

By Richard Hobson

FENNER'S (second day of three): Essex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 63 runs behind Cambridge University

SHORTLY after tea yesterday, Cambridge University hit upon an ingenious way to *slow down the Essex scoring*. They put Derek Randall in charge of the scoreboard.

With so many passing spectators stopping for a quick chat and handshake, the concentration of the inimitable *Randall* inevitably wavered. Fortunately, the scorer's box is situated nearby; when Randall, a Cambridge coach, first popped his head round to compare totals, he had inadvertently marked Essex five runs down. Thus *was the tone* set for the session.

It mattered little, for Essex were able to proceed at leisure *against the students'* attack. Cambridge are well endowed on the batting front this season, as they demonstrated on Wednesday. Their bowling, though, is sadly lacking and the absence of Tennent *through injury and Janisch to* exam commitments has accentuated the weakness.

Prichard and Robinson both *prospered in* compiling a first-wicket stand of 136. They had every reason to contemplate further *advances* when Quentin Hughes joined the attack as the seventh bowler. An occasional purveyor of off *spin, Jones has featured osten*sibly as a batsman in his appearances for Durham's second team. He had bowled only four overs this season until yesterday, but can expect longer spells for the remainder of his first year as an *undergraduate after claiming* a wicket in each of his first two overs to peg back the visitors.

Prichard appeared a certainty to record his second hundred in four days, adding to his 114 in the Benson and Hedges Cup success against Somerset on Monday. He was dropped by Churton, the wicketkeeper, *on nine*, but reached his half-century with a towering pull off Dawson *and had advanced to 72 when* Will House at mid-wicket accepted a *sharp*, low catch.

Robinson needed time at the crease *after* a *slow start* to the season. He settled quickly, cut powerfully and outscored his captain, but enjoyed *less* of the strike after reaching 50 and lost his fluency. Immediately after tea, he gave a hard *return* catch to *Hughes*.

Easy, this bowling lark, Hughes might have considered. Well, not always. There *is a downside to the occupa*tion and the golden arm was soon to wilt under an onslaught from Danny Law. *Hughes went for 22 runs* in his last two overs.

To add to his five wickets on the first day, Law is in a *position to post another* landmark today when he resumes on 39. But for the wretched weather, which lopped 175 *minutes* off play, he might have completed the second hundred of his career already. *Though he, like Prichard*, was fortunate to survive a dropped catch early in his innings. Nobody was more disappointed than Randall when bad light terminated proceedings.

John Snow, 55, the former *Sussex and England fast* bowler, has been elected to the Sussex committee, along with John Spencer, *his former county team*mate, and four members of the Sussex 2000 Action Group assembled by Tony Pigott, the chief executive — Richard Barrow, Charles Frewin, Don Trangmar and *Roger Dakin*.

Speight keeps up good work

By Ivo Tennant

ALAN KNOTT has a new protégé. Or, at least, another pupil. Martin Speight, who joined the exodus from Hove specifically to enhance his career *with Durham*, has spent much of the early part of the season studying hours of videotapes and poring over the advice that he has been given by the greatest of wicketkeepers. He is determined to look the part.

Speight's decision to leave Sussex was *not, he said*, connected with the shenanigans at the club last season, although he believes that the stress he *suffered* over *his* deteriorating relationship with the committee led to his illness, ME, which resulted in him missing the entire season of 1995. *Quite* simply, he wanted to keep wicket and came to the realisation that he was not going to take Peter Moore's place.

"*I felt at the end of 1994 that, if I* was ever going to go on an England A tour, I would have done so by then. *I* did *not* enjoy my cricket last *year and thought that if I could keep* wicket and bat as well as I had been doing, I would have greater opportunities. *And I was 29*, engaged and had just bought a house. I felt I had to earn more money," Speight said.

"Even then, to make the decision *to leave was a hard one*. It is a shame the upheaval at Hove did not happen two years ago, because Sussex would have been a successful side by now. But I felt underrat*ed by the chairman and committee* and they were not paying the young players what I thought they should have been receiving."

Speight had been to Durham University (and gained a decent degree: a 2:1 in archeology/ancient history). *Even so, the prognostica*tions were not good. Durham had taken on four former students — James Boiling, Graeme Fowler, *Simon Hughes and Jon Longley* — and none could be said to have been a success. Yet he has begun the season competently. "Martin has worked hard *at his keeping and* done well," Norman Gifford, the Durham coach, said. "I was with him for most of his career with *Sussex and knew he would add to* our depth."

Speight: ambitious

In his 11 years with Sussex, Speight gained a reputation for attacking the bowling from the very start of an innings in limited-overs cricket. His half-century in the high-*scoring* NatWest Trophy *final* of 1993 was a *memorable* piece of hitting. He expects to bat this season at No 5 or No 6 in championship *matches, having replaced* Chris Scott and David Ligertwood, and anywhere in the order in the one-day game.

It is, though, his wicketkeeping that concerns him. Knott came to coach him at his request. "Alan took *12* hours of film of me and we did a *great deal of work on one-handed* diving catches. He argued that I would not always reach the ball two-handed at full stretch. He *taught me not to let my right hip* drop away."

Speight said, "Above all, Alan is very *positive* and David Boon, my new captain at Durham, has been telling me that Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, was not *particularly good when he started* but worked tremendously hard at his game. I have set myself a target of 1,000 runs and keeping wicket well this season. I think that in the one-day competitions, Durham will surprise a few people."

Smith and Giles edge out Patel

By John Thicknesse

OXFORD (second day of three): Oxford University, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 147 runs behind Warwickshire

CHETAN PATEL, a post-graduate taking a diploma in social sciences, *set the scene for what was nearly a* great day for Oxford cricket with the University's first hat-trick since 1967. Sadly for him and his team*mates, however*, Ashley Giles and Neil Smith, batting No s 8 and 9 for Warwickshire, had failed to read the script.

*When Smith took guard 13 min*utes before tea, with Warwickshire 174 for seven, it looked as though Oxford were about to bowl out a *county for the first time since 1994*. So they might have, and deservedly, if in the next over an edge by Giles had been hauled down by second *slip instead of whistling a foot over* Byron Byrne's head and racing to the boundary.

Giles, 13 then, survived a similarly testing chance at *27*, when Mark Wagh at first slip could only parry another rapid edge. Oxford would *not have been flattered had* Warwickshire been all out by then, nor the county in any way disgraced, so often had Patel, James Averis and Chris Battarbee passed defensive bats with swing and seam.

But Giles's second life proved fatal. Shortly after tea, Smith, watched by his father, M J K, who *captained Oxford in 1956, lashed 18* off five balls from Battarbee and swung the game. When Giles followed his example, they added 123 in 57 minutes and left the University in disarray. When Nick Knight made his declaration, 168 ahead, *Smith had taken only 44 balls to* score 55, which contained *eight* fours and a six.

Deflated as Oxford were, it was *little surprise* when, within two overs of their second innings starting, they were one for two, Welch and Brown picking up their openers. *Rain cut 15 minutes from their* survival time and one chance went to ground, but, before the close, Knight, who, after 40 minutes batting in the morning, had enough confidence *in the finger that he* broke while on tour with England to take up position at short leg, helped *Brown* to a second wicket by catching Lightfoot, a left-hander.

Brown: third victim

Powell, Welch and Brown were the burly Patel's hat-trick victims *and it much increased the bowler's* pleasure that, having played for Warwickshire second XI in 1992, all three were erstwhile team-mates. *He has played for five other county* second teams, among them Middlesex and Surrey. He needed help for only one, when Powell padded up to a ball that pitched *on his off stump* and would have hit the middle.

Celebrations for that were cut short by the wicket falling to the last ball of an over, but delight was unconfined when Welch was bowled off stump by the first ball of *the next, whereupon Patel* located Brown's edge for Wagh to complete the hat-trick with a sharp catch low to his right two-handed at first slip.

Seeing it pouched, Patel, 25, stretched his follow-through into a jubilant curve between his four-man slip field, where he was duly smothered by his *team-mates. It* was the third hat-trick of his life, the previous ones coming for Hornsey *and Loughborough*, and the match ball will join its fellows on his mantelpiece.

CRICKET

Brown shines in the murk for Middlesex

By Michael Henderson

LORD'S (second day of four): Sussex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 446 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX could not have had a much better day than this if they had fallen to their knees and offered a heartfelt wish to mighty Jove. After taking their score from 337 for five overnight to a declaration shortly before tea of 490 for nine, they cut through the soft underbelly of the Sussex batting to give themselves an excellent chance of winning the match — even if rain and bad light continue to intervene.

The murky light that brought play to a close at 5.25pm provided an apt commentary on the Sussex performance. They have played abominably. Some of the fielding yesterday, had it been witnessed on a school field, would have prompted any reputable master to say: "If you're going to mess about, you may as well go home. You're wasting everybody's time."

To think that Peter Moores, on winning the toss, asked Middlesex to bat. He may be wet behind the ears where captaincy is concerned, but he cannot afford to make many more mistakes on this scale. There is no malice in this pitch, as Middlesex proved by batting through five sessions.

Amer Khan, who took the four wickets to fall yesterday, giving him five in an innings for the first time in his career, will look back with satisfaction on the Middlesex innings, but not many others will. Jarvis and Robinson, the two old sweats, bowled rather better then their figures suggest. Otherwise, it was woeful stuff, absolutely dreadful.

One passage of play in mid-afternoon seemed almost surreal. As Angus Fraser, relishing his role of tailend Charlie, bashed his way to 35 from 39 balls, two fire appliances pulled up behind the Warner Stand to investigate a minor "domestic" and spectators were asked to leave the stand. It had to happen the day after MCC members had voted to ban smoking in the Long Room.

Brown: impressive

Like most fast bowlers, Fraser loves a good bat and he won't have many better opportunities than the one he enjoyed yesterday. In 12 hectic overs, he helped Keith Brown to add 78 for the ninth wicket and, after he was bowled, essaying a rustic "cow" shot, Sussex had to endure five overs of Tufnell before Mike Gatting decided it was time his bowlers had a go.

In no time at all, the Sussex batsmen revealed that, however mediocre their bowlers, they can perform just as poorly. By the time he took his sweater, Jamie Hewitt, bowling from the Nursery End, had taken three wickets to leave Sussex in the mire. Greenfield was leg-before, Taylor caught behind and Peirce held at point by a scowling Tufnell, who walked, mincingly, halfway to St John's Wood station to get the sting of the stroke out of his fingers.

Taylor's dismissal maintained Brown's involvement in the match. Unbeaten on 72 overnight, the Middlesex wicketkeeper was still there when the declaration came, having doubled his score. He batted for 18 minutes short of six hours — in other words, the better part of a day — for the thirteenth hundred of his first-class career. His innings included 14 fours, one of them all run, and a six.

Brown, who made his debut in 1984, is one of those cricketers people can take for granted. He served a long apprenticeship, as stumpers often do, behind Paul Downton and, when Middlesex signed Paul Farbrace from Kent, Brown's first-team opportunities were not immediately apparent.

Yet he put his head down, made his runs and has developed into a handy wicket-keeper-batsman who is trusted to hold down the No 6 spot. At Middlesex, who have always selected five bowlers in their teams on the reasonable assumption that to win games you normally have to take 20 wickets in a match, that is an exposed position and Brown has paid his way.

Quite what Desmond Haynes made of his team's inadequacy is not hard to imagine. The Sussex coach spent many a happy hour on this ground as a distinguished overseas player for Middlesex. His former county are not the force they were, although people who infer too much from their slow start to the season do so at their peril. But the Sussex cricket in this match has made them look like kings.

Caddick's resolve sustains Somerset

By Pat Gibson

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Somerset, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 162 runs behind at Northamptonshire

IT WAS sometimes difficult to tell whether Somerset were a formation dancing team or a cricket side as they went through the Dermot Reeve exercise manual in their attempts to keep out the cold at the County Ground yesterday — but not when Andrew Caddick was bowling.

For him, cricket will always be a desperately serious business and his determination to keep himself in the forefront of the England selectors' thoughts was plain to see as he took four for 22 in 11.2 overs to cut down Northamptonshire from their overnight 126 for four to 185 all out.

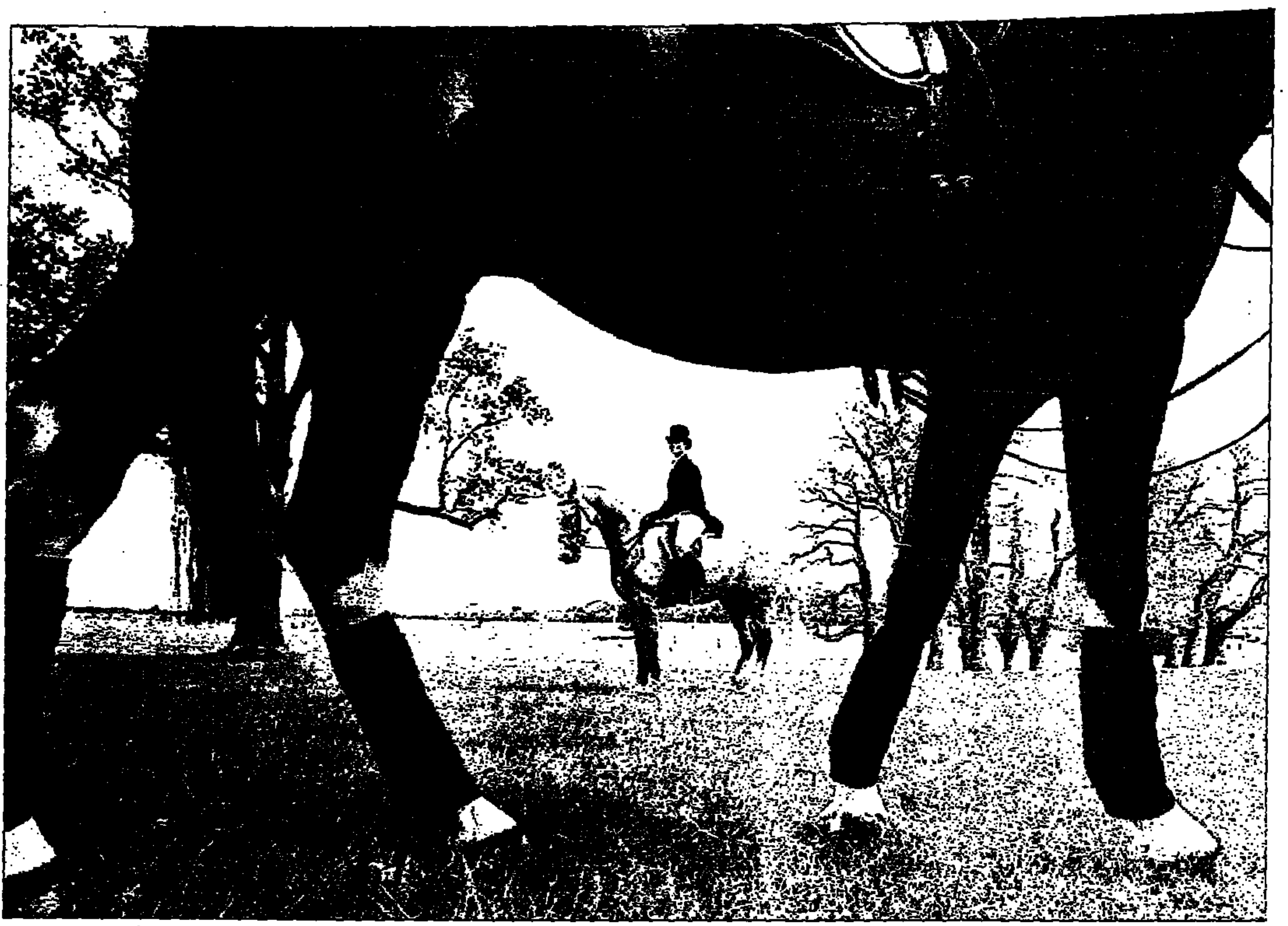
Everything is relative, of course, and Mohammad Akram, playing in his first championship match at Northampton, was quick to suggest that anything an England fast bowler could do, a Pakistani could do better by claiming three wickets at a cost of 11 runs in his 5.2 overs to leave Somerset reeling at 23 for three when bad light ended play.

First things first, however. Play did not get under way until mid-afternoon and Caddick was soon in the thick of the action. Curran, who had sustained the Northamptonshire innings on the abbreviated first day with his uncomplicated innings of 65, had just thumped Rose straight back over his head for six without any discernible movement of the feet when he slashed him to deep backward point, where Caddick ran in to take the catch on his knees.

Then Caddick went to work with the ball. Snape was yorked, Capel bowled off his pads and Boswell pinned leg-before and, with Rose getting Ripley leg-before in between, Northamptonshire had lost five wickets for 24.

Akram gave the first hint that he was not going to take this lying down by making 20 out of 27 for the last wicket before Caddick ended the innings by forcing Taylor to play on and, in doing so, took his final figures to six for 65.

There were only 25 overs remaining when Somerset began their innings and 14 of them were lost to further rain, but there was still time enough for Akram to show that he has the makings of a worthy successor to Curtly Ambrose. Bowling fast and straight, he had Lathwell caught at second slip, Trescothick at first slip and bowled the promoted Kerr to leave Caddick to complete his day's work by seeing out the last few deliveries as a second nightwatchman.


Muir and Archie Brown relax before the dressage test that put them in third place at Badminton yesterday. Photograph: Tony White

Dressage changes give Muir flying start

By Jenny MacArthur

DAVID O'CONNOR, of the United States, riding the Irish-bred Custom Made, shares the overnight lead with Linda Algotsson, of Sweden, on her Olympic horse, Lafayett, after a cold and wintry first day of dressage at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials.

The best British performances came from Paddy Muir, on Archie Brown, on which she was ninth last year, and Daisy Dick, on Headley Bravo, who are lying in third and fourth places — separated by 0.2 of a mark. On a day of mostly indifferent performances — not helped by the blustery weather and a new, more demanding test, which included flying changes for the first time — these four riders were the only ones to achieve a score in the 40s.

O'Connor, 35, from Virginia, will not be easy to dislodge. Custom Made, a 12-year-old gelding, was third last year and fifth in the Olympic Games individual contest in Atlanta. A member of the Mark Phillips-trained Olympic silver medal-winning team in Atlanta, on Giltedge, O'Connor is undaunted by Hugh Thomas's course for the cross country tomorrow. "It's big — but it's fair and it should suit my horse," he said.

Although Algotsson, 25, is competing at Badminton for the first time, the 16-year-old Lafayett is a noted cross-country performer. They had a clear round in Atlanta and were in the lead after the cross country at Luhmuhlen in Germany last year. However, they are less reliable in the showjumping phase.

Muir, who produced copybook flying changes during her test, has an impressive Badminton record. She was sixth at her first attempt, in 1988 on Barnabus Brown, and fourth two years later. Although Archie Brown had nine months off last year after injuring a fetlock, he has returned fitter than ever with a new slimline look after putting in "hours" on the horse walker.

"He's not a thoroughbred and he struggles to make the time on the cross country, so we've got him as lean as possible," Muir, the daughter of a Yorkshire farmer, said. The 4½-mile course this year holds no particular fears for her. "It's a lovely course which he should like," she said.

Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, who has some catching up to do after finishing joint-seventh on Chesterfield; is less confident. "It's a good course which tests everything, but it's very technical, particularly around the Vicarage Vee, and there are loads of places where you could make a mistake," he said.

Andrew Hoy, a member of Australia's Olympic gold medal-winning team, who is lying fifth on the brilliant Darien Powers, said that the course "should not be underestimated".

On a day when Thomas, the director of the event, confidently predicted that nobody outside the top three after the dressage was likely to win, there were plenty of disappointed riders.

Ian Stark and Leslie Law, the only riders to have two horses, are in 26th and 38th place, on Arakai and Capitano, respectively, after unsettled tests. Both ride their better horses — Stanwick Ghost and New Flavour — today. Other fancied riders competing today include Mary King, of Great Britain, Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the defending champion, and Vaughn Jefferis, the world champion.

ROWING

Haining back to defend title

By Mike Rosewell

PETER HAINING, of Scotland, Britain's Olympic sculler, will be aiming to win his fourth Wingfield Sculls title from Putney to Mortlake today. Haining, 35, will compete despite still suffering from a virus that forced him to miss the opportunity to defend his Scullers Head crown.

Haining, who is studying sports science at Roehampton Institute, said: "What I really need is two weeks in a hot climate, but, being a student and having the title defence in mind, I'm not going to get it."

Two of his regular international rivals — Guy Pooley, the winner in 1992, and the 1992 Olympic sculler, Wade Hall-Craggs, who won in 1993 — will not be testing Haining, although Hall-Craggs will be the umpire in an event that dates back to 1830.

Haining's five opponents are not without pedigree. Martin Kettle took the Scullers Head title and, in Haining's opinion, "has the makings of a good Wingfield Sculler". The lightweight, Ian Watson, an international rower since 1992, is in the field, as is Tom Gale, who was fifth in the Scullers Head and is a club colleague of Kettle's.

Alex Wake, who is well up in the international sculling rankings this year and was second behind Greg Searle in recent trials in Belgium, suffered from cramp in the Scullers Head, but the former Great Britain coxswain, Alan Inns, said: "When he gets it right, he gets it very, very right."

The line-up is completed by Haining's fellow Scotsman, David Pattullo, of Aberdeen. Pattullo, the Scottish champion, finished ninth in the Scullers Head and is described by Haining as "a big, fit, tough northerner who does not mind mixing it".

WINGFIELD SCULLS. P Haining (Auriol, Kensington) on Surrey station, I Watson (London), A Wake (Tideway Scullers), M Kettle (Queens Tower), T Gale (Queens Tower), D Pattullo (Aberdeen) on Middlesex station

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9 MAY	METABRASIVE LIMITED	ENVILLE	100
9 MAY	MS SELECTION	WEST HILL	20
9 MAY	SINCLAIR ROCHE & TEMPERLEY	WILDERNESSE	30
9 MAY	SWALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	BOUGHTON	50
10 MAY	IRISH ROAD MOTORS LTD	STRABANE	24
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National Final shown on Sky sports

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Gloucestershire v Hampshire

BRISTOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 173 runs behind Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

M L Hayden lbw b Smith	23
J S Laney c Hancock b Lawrence	19
*J P Stephenson c Russell b Smith	19
R A Smith lbw b Young	52
M Keech c Russell b Hancock	46
W S Kendall lbw b Alleyne	47
†A N Aymes lbw b Smith	8
S D Udal c and b Young	58
A D Mascarenhas c Hancock b Smith	1
S J Renshaw c Russell b Young	14
C A Connor not out	12
Extras (lb 9, w 2, nb 6)	17
Total (118.3 overs)	316

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-83, 3-64, 4-147, 5-169, 6-195, 7-272, 8-283, 9-297.

BOWLING: Smith 28-8-61-4; Lawrence 18-1-78-1; Young 26 3-11-43-3; Ball 22-8-39 0; Alleyne 14-4-47-1; Hancock 10-2-39-1

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

A J Wright b Mascarenhas	34
N J Trainor c Laney b Renshaw	12
R J Cunliffe not out	43
M A Lynch not out	54
Total (2 wkts, 44.4 overs)	143

*M W Alleyne, S Young, †R C Russell, T H C Hancock, M C J Ball, D V Lawrence and A M Smith to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-72.

BOWLING: Connor 14-3-31-0, Renshaw 7 4-0-27-1, Mascarenhas 8-1-28-1, Udal 6-0-22-0, Stephenson 9-1-35-0

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 4 Hampshire 3

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White

Middlesex v Sussex

LORD'S (second day of four): Sussex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 446 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

P N Weekes lbw b Jarvis	7
J H Kallis c sub b Newell	31
M R Ramprakash c Moores b Rao	145
*M W Gatting b Khan	23
J C Pooley b Robinson	30
†K R Brown not out	144
P E Weekings c Drakes b Khan	13
R L Johnson c Drakes b Khan	18
J P Hewitt c Greenfield b Khan	0
A R C Fraser b Khan	35
P C R Tufnell not out	12
Extras (b 6, lb 10, w 6, nb 10)	32
Total (9 wkts dec)	490

Score at 120 overs: 389-6

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-24, 2-53, 3-96, 4-185, 5-321, 6-363, 7-389, 8-390, 9-468.

BOWLING: Jarvis 39.5-8-126-1; Drakes 6-1-21-0; Robinson 30-7-87-1; Newell 9-2-35-1; Khan 37-5-137-5; Greenfield 1-0-15-0; Athey 6-0-17-0; Peirce 7-0-22-0; Rao 5-1-14-1.

SUSSEX: First Innings

M T E Peirce c Tufnell b Hewitt	10
K Greenfield lbw b Hewitt	11
N R Taylor c Brown b Hewitt	6
C W J Athey not out	13
R K Rao not out	4
Total (3 wkts, 20.3 overs)	44

K Newell, *†P Moores, V C Drakes, P W Jarvis, M A Robinson and A A Khan to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-26, 3-31

BOWLING: Fraser 7-3-11-0, Hewitt 9-3-26-3; Johnson 3.3-0-7-0; Kallis 1-1-0-0

Bonus points. Middlesex 5 Sussex 2

Umpires: V A Holder and J H Hampshire.

Northamptonshire v Somerset

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four). Somerset, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 162 runs behind Northamptonshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R R Montgomerie c Trescothick b Shine	0
M B Loye c Bowler b Caddick	19
*R J Bailey c Turner b Shine	8
K M Curran c Caddick b Rose	73
A L Penberthy b Caddick	19
D J Capel b Caddick	20
J N Snape lbw b Caddick	3
†D Ripley lbw b Rose	0
J P Taylor b Caddick	7
S A J Boswell lbw b Caddick	2
Mohammad Akram not out	20
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 5)	15
Total (55.2 overs)	185

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-25, 3-64, 4-116, 5-134, 6-155, 7-156, 8-156, 9-158

BOWLING: Caddick 24.2-6-65-6, Shine 7-2-29-2; Rose 20-5-60-2; Ahmed 4-1-21-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell c Montgomerie b Mohammed Akram	5
M E Trescothick c Capel b Mohammad Akram	4
*P D Bowler not out	11
J I D Kerr b Mohammad Akram	0
A R Caddick not out	3
Total (3 wkts, 10.2 overs)	23

M Burns, P C L Holloway, †R J Turner, G D Rose, Mushtaq Ahmed and K J Shine to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-8, 2-13, 3-19.

BOWLING Mohammad Akram 5.2-2-11-3; Taylor 5-1-12-0.

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 1 Somerset 4

Umpires. T E Jesty and B J Meyer.

No play yesterday

Derby: Derbyshire v Surrey. Hartlepool: Nottinghamshire 170 (C M Tolley 54; A Walker 7 for 56), Durham 115-3; Headingley: Glamorgan 213-1 (S P James 101 not out, H Morris 55) v Yorkshire.

Worcestershire v Leicestershire

WORCESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 215 runs behind Worcestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T S Curtis lbw b Milns	4
W P C Weston c Milns b Mullally	11
G A Hick lbw b Milns	9
K R Spiring c Maddy b Johnson	55
*T M Moody c Nixon b Johnson	8
V S Solanki c Brimson b Mullally	24
G R Haynes not out	47
†S J Rhodes c Nixon b Johnson	39
P J Newport b Mullally	4
R J Chapman c Dakin b Mullally	3
A Sheriyar c Dakin b Milns	13
Extras (b 6, lb 8, w 6, nb 20)	40
Total (88.2 overs)	257

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-22, 3-36, 4-60, 5-109, 6-131, 7-207, 8-232, 9-236.

BOWLING: Milns 18.2-6-53-3, Mullally 28-3-86-4; Brimson 8-4-20-0; Johnson 21-4-61-3; Wells 6-3-10-0; Dakin 6-1-8-0; Maddy 1-0-5-0.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

D L Maddy c Hick b Sheriyar	20
I J Sutcliffe lbw b Newport	6
A Habib c Hick b Newport	3
*V J Wells c Rhodes b Newport	0
N C Johnson lbw b Newport	1
G I Macmillan not out	5
†P A Nixon not out	5
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (5 wkts, 24.5 overs)	42

D J Millns, J M Dakin, A D Mullally and M T Brimson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-13, 2-21, 3-21, 4-27, 5-33

BOWLING. Newport 12.5-3-20-4 Sheriyar 12-5-20-1

Bonus points: Worcestershire 4 Leicestershire 4

Umpires. J W Holder and K E Palmer

Unversity matches

Cambridge University v Essex

FENNER'S (second day of three). Essex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 63 runs behind Cambridge University

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 285 for 9 dec (A Singh 134, E T Smith 72, D R Law 5 for 93)

ESSEX: First Innings

*P J Prichard c House b Hughes	72
D D J Robinson c and b Hughes	59
A P Grayson c House b Freeth	38
D R Law not out	39
A J E Hibbert not out	8
Extras (b 3, lb 1, w 2)	6
Total (3 wkts)	222

S D Peters, †B J Hyam, D G Wilson, G R Napier, S J W Andrew and P M Such to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-136, 2-145, 3-185

BOWLING: P S Jones 8-1-31-0. How 8.3-2-19-0, Dawson 7-1-26-0, House 4-0-21-0, R O Jones 6-1-20-0, Freeth 16-3-48-1, Hughes 13 1-3-53-2

Umpires. B Dudleston and M K Reed.

Oxford University v Warwickshire

THE PARKS (second day of three): Oxford University, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 147 runs behind Warwickshire

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 128 (G Welch 4 for 39)

Second Innings

R D Hudson lbw b Brown	1
*M A Wagh b Welch	0
C G R Lightfoot c Knight b Brown	1
B W Byrne not out	7
†A P Scrini not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 5, nb 4)	11
Total (3 wkts)	21

FALL OF WICKETS 1-1, 2-1, 3-8

BOWLING Welch 6-3-4-1, Brown 6-2-10-2.

WARWICKSHIRE: First innings

*N V Knight c Buchanan b Battarbee	12
W G Khan c Wagh b Avens	43
D L Hemp b Battarbee	5
D P Ostler lbw b Avens	51
M J Powell lbw b Patel	20
G Welch b Patel	0
D R Brown c Wagh b Patel	0
A F Giles not out	69
N M K Smith not out	55
Extras (b 9, lb 9, w 2, nb 22)	42
Total (7 wkts dec)	297

†T Frost and M D Edmond did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-39, 2-57, 3-71, 4-121, 5-125, 6-125, 7-174

BOWLING: Avens 22-5-97-2, Patel 19-2-78-3; Battarbee 19-4-72-2; Wagh 6-1-18-0; Hudson 2-0-14-0

Umpires. A G T Whitehead and P Willey

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three): **Chelmsford:** Essex 111, Durham 323-1 (S Hutton 144 not out, J A Daley 125 not out). **Pontypridd:** Glamorgan 283-4 (W L Law 76, M J Powell 91 not out) v Yorkshire. **Southampton:** Worcestershire 306 (D Dawkins 83, J N Bovill 3-35), Hampshire 79-3. **Leicester:** Leicestershire 83-1 v Kent. **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire 188-6 (G E Welton 93 not out) v Lancashire. **Taunton:** Gloucestershire 407-9 dec (M Windows 92, R Dawson 76, M Coombes 72), Somerset 24-0. **The Oval:** Surrey 406-9 (J A Knott 99, P C Hollioake 88, R W Nowell 55, J D Ratcliffe 53) v Derbyshire. **Eastbourne:** Northamptonshire 377-7 dec (D J Sales 115 not out, T C Walton 55, D J Roberts 51), Sussex 30-0 (C J Batt 4-61)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Ashville Coll 186, Woodhouse Grove 99-6; Cheltenham 208-5, Hereford Cathedral School 149; Emanuel 98, RGS Guildford 100-1. Felsted 160, Bishop's Stortford 11; Haberdashers' Aske's 180-4 dec, Incogniti 72-3; MCC 158, Cheltenham 159-6. Merchant Taylors', Northwood 214-3 dec, Watsons GS 148-2; Radley 254-6, Cheltenham 151-8, Seaford 175-8. MCC 213-4, Wellingborough 144, Oundle 95-7

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four 104 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Surrey
HARTLEPOOL: Durham v Nottinghamshire
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Hampshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Sussex
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Somerset
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Leicestershire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Glamorgan

University matches
11.30, final day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Essex
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Warwickshire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (second day of three): Chelmsford: Essex v Durham. Pontypridd: Glamorgan v Yorkshire. Southampton: Hampshire v Worcestershire. Leicester: Leicestershire v Kent. Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire. Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire. The Oval: Surrey v Derbyshire. Eastbourne: Sussex v Northamptonshire.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Mossley v Salford

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: John O'Hara League Cup: Final replay: Burgess Hill v Wick.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Wigan v London (7.30)

Second division
Lancashire Lynx v Leigh (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Badminton Horse Trials.

GOLF: Benson and Hedges International Open (at The Oxfordshire, Thame)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Poole (7.30), Peterborough v Coventry (7.30) Premier League Cup: Edinburgh v Sheffield (7.30) Premier League: Arena Essex v Newport (8.0); Oxford v Hull (7.45). Amateur League: Belle Vue v Long Eaton and Wolverhampton (9.0); Peterborough v Buxton (7.0).

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Wednesday hung out to dry after East End sponge bath

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

Joy unconfined for Hartson, right, and Kitson as they celebrate their goalscoring double act. Photograph: Allsport

At West Ham United's stadium, Upton Park, when a player requires medical attention, a very bizarre message is played on the murky multi-screen scoreboard. A speech-bubble appears, with curly handwriting inside. It appears to date from 1952.

"Oh no, a man is down," it says. Then another message is flashed up: "What can we do?" *Finally (just as the injured player is hopping off to the dressing-rooms)* comes the last bit: "This looks like a job for ... SUPER SPONGE!" At which point an animated sponge with arms and legs (reminiscent of Ted Rogers's Dusty Bin) whirls on the screen like a superhero.

Well, it's a credit to Hammers fans that *they still take themselves so seriously with Super Sponge as their talisman*. Other teams have Eric Cantona and Matt Le Tissier, and the Hammers have this little bendy fellow who makes bath-time fun-time. However, not a sign of the usual floppy wetness was on show last Saturday when West Ham beat Sheffield Wednesday by a phenomenal 5-1. It made you wonder: *has the big spongy one had his day?*

For Hartson leapt and Kitson stormed and Wednesday were scared to death. How weird to come all the way from South Yorkshire to face a team famous for its fatal porousness, and find them running straight at you in warpaint ("Aaaagh!") like commandos *fresh from* bayonet training. *The Owls* fans sang lustily all afternoon, but, for *obvious* empirical reasons, "You'll never beat Des Walker" was abandoned fairly early on.

It was all to do with relegation fears, of course, this astonishing last-minute heroism. At the bottom of the *Premiership, the bad or lazy teams now scramble over each other like toads in a jar —and I find myself playing God deciding which ones I'll allow to go* down. Nottingham Forest would have been my first choice, as it happens; so their early surrender is fine by me.

But what about the other two? Hmm. Coventry don't add much to the gaiety of nations, although of course Gordon Strachan's Rumpelstiltskin entertainment value should not be overlooked. Sunderland's only got Chris Waddle.

On the other hand, Southampton *must stay up, as must* Middlesbrough and Leicester. Sentiment *is* not entirely absent from these judgments, incidentally. (Unchecked prejudice likewise plays a part.)

But my point is, until last Saturday, I'd most certainly have put West Ham on my trapdoor list, and now I'm not so sure. "They're playing brilliantly," I yelled to my friend, Robert, beside me *in the visitors' stand*. "Did you see how Hartson jumped just now? Like a salmon leaping up a waterfall! I've never seen anything like it!"

Robert looked glum. As an Owls fan, he was having a very bad afternoon. "I'll tell you one thing," he finally *pronounced* on West Ham: *"They're not as foreign as they're cracked up to be."* In which *surreal verdict (born of a certain bitterness)* there was admittedly great truth.

Mainly, the Owls fans just winced under the violence of each successive blow that rained. There were two goals in the first ten minutes and it was clear that, barring an unscheduled evacuation of the ground (or an earthquake), the one-sided scoring trend was unstoppable. Wednesday were just hapless witnesses to their own defeat.

I mentioned once before in this column the horrible confluence of images occurring when Hammers beat Owls and on this occasion the metaphor was especially compelling. A frenzied attack was what police would call this. And afterwards, just a few grey feathers blew pathetically across the pitch. A bit of claw, a bit of beak. A mournful, dying twit-twoo.

' "You'll never beat Des Walker" was abandoned fairly early on'

While Robert wrestled with his grief and I insensitively cheered the West Ham goals ("Five! This is incredible!"), the *majority of Wednesday fans were maintaining a level of denial quite unknown outside* of football crowds.

"Barmyarmy," they chanted, over and over. *Clap, clap barmyarmy: clap, clap, barmyarmy*. The chant was loud, rhythmic and deeply plucky, and continued unbroken in the second half for something like 20 minutes.

Mass hysteria was the only explanation. Or a technique for self-hypnosis was being explored. But if it went on *much longer, it was on the cards that the stand would* collapse. Owls fans around us also particularly enjoyed yelling "Cheat" at young Rio Ferdinand, after David Hirst was sent off — though I'll *admit I did never quite see the* logic of the "cheat" accusation. Personally, I just thought that since Hirst is laid up with injury most of the time, the idea of sending him off — when *fit* — was stupid.

Of course, since Saturday we've had even more results, and I've spent even more time adding hypothetical ones and *threes and forgetting the number I first thought of*. Like an early talent for darts, an interest in football ought to make all little boys good at simple addition, and probably does. Personally, however, I've only just worked out why there are 38 games in a season. There is nothing cabbalistic about the digits. It's just 19 opponents multiplied by two. Tch. What a blind, over-elaborate ninny I have been.

Also since Saturday, of course, Manchester United *have become champions*. And it's all over, just like that. I can't believe it. "A shame you had to win by default," I commented sympathetically to a rabid Man U fan on Wednesday night, choosing my words without sufficient care. "By DEFAULT?" he echoed. Fortunately, he's a good mate; or he'd have knocked me *down. Evidently, winning is the crucial thing where the* league is concerned; a glorious last-ditch encounter is just a bit of icing on the cake.

But I still don't understand how the champions generate a proper spirit of celebration when their win results from such bathos as Newcastle not winning and Liverpool losing (or whatever it was). It lacks *occasion*. "I see we've won, then." Man U fans must have *sighed pleasantly after Tuesday night's results*. They stood up, made cocoa, went to bed. "So. Right. Well. See you in the morning."

What could be *more* rewarding than discovering a local Hen house?

A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours.

A most Gratifying Ale.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betts off to Wigan again

By Christopher Irvine

ALL is far from well at Wigan. The team is stuck in the bottom half of the Stones Super League and there is a move by rebel shareholders to overthrow the board, but the return next year of Denis Betts will mean a reassuring and galvanising presence at Central Park.

Wigan yesterday finalised the deal that will bring Betts back to his former club, halfway through a five-year contract with Auckland Warriors. A reported £850,000 deal over four years will make Betts *comfortably the highest-paid player in England — a price for the Great Britain forward* that Wigan, and not Leeds, were prepared to pay.

Betts, 27, will see out the Australasian Super League season and forthcoming world club championship with Auckland, who recently agreed to his release because of "family reasons". Betts said: "Obviously, things have changed at Wigan, but that gives me a new challenge. Sheer hard work made them the No 1 club in the world and the same will do that again."

Betts: returning

Betts will not be the only link with a glorious past if shareholders, who want to depose Jack Robinson, the chairman, and Tom Rathbone, a director, get their way at a special meeting on May 20. Phil Clarke, who left Wigan with Betts in 1995 but retired because of a spinal injury, has agreed to be nominated for a proposed new board. There is speculation that John Monie, the former Wigan coach, will be the second nomination.

Shaun Edwards, now *committed to London Broncos, will play no part in a takeover* at Wigan by the old guard. He returns there tonight with mixed emotions. His new team is doing better than his former one and victory would move London into the top three, but Edwards has taken no pleasure in seeing Wigan *struggle*.

Edwards said that he had not wanted to leave Wigan, with whom he collected 39 winner's medals in 14 years, but that the club had refused his offer to divide his time between it and his family in London. It took him a while to settle, but a blossoming half-back partnership with Josh White is reaping dividends for the in-form Broncos.

When London drew at Central Park last June, it was the first point that Wigan had dropped at home for two years, but they have been beaten there twice already this season. Henry Paul returns from injury after missing Wigan's past five matches. Nigel Wright starts his first match for two years. Lee Hansen makes his full debut at prop and Martin Hall returns at hooker.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

XENOGENOUS
(c) Due to an outside cause. "Gosh. I am impressed by your clever daughter's A Levels, Marigold. Fancy you and Paul bringing forth such a genius. Absolutely xenogenous!"

FLUBDUB
(a) A fine 19th-century word meaning pompous or bombastic language. Use it in useful combination with another typically English duplicated word *flimflam*. "Did you listen to the Prime Minister's party political speech last night? All flubdub and flimflam, as usual."

EXUNGULATE
(b) To trim or cut the hoofs or nails. From the Latin ex- off, ie to remove + *ungula* a hoof. "Mummy, I wish you would do something to stop it. It makes me sick. Harry is in the bathroom, exungulating himself again."

FANDANGLE
(a) Silly fooling around. Or eccentric or grotesque ornament or ornamentation. "Now Charlie, this is Sasha. She is going to babysit for us tonight. Now I do not want you to pester the life out of her to look at you fandangle all night, the way you did with poor Miss Heffernung."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxh7+! Kxh7 2 Rh1+ Bh6 3 Rxh6+! Kxh6 4 Qf4+ g5 5 Qh2+ Kg6 6 Qh5+ Kf6 7 Qf7 checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

And here's one made earlier

Blue Peter
BBC1, 5.10pm

Following hard on the 40th anniversary celebrations for *The Sky At Night* comes a landmark in the history of another show which started in the 1950s and is still flourishing. *Blue Peter* went on air in 1958, the year after Patrick Moore's first date with the stars, and this afternoon's edition is number 3,000. Such longevity is retort enough to those ungallant souls who have mocked *Blue Peter* over the years for the relentless jollity of its presentation and ability to find the most unlikely uses for discarded yoghurt pots. But the series has changed as society has changed, as today's programme will demonstrate. Two former presenters, Valerie Singleton (1962 to 1972) and Mark Curry (1986 to 1989) are on hand to stir the nostalgia and there is a look at what life was like for children in *Blue Peter's* debut year.

Porridge: Pardon Me
BBC1, 8.00pm (not Scotland)

Once again the paucity of good new sitcoms compels the thought that some of the funniest material on the small screen is more than 20 years old. Even episodes of *Dad's Army* that have been shown so often that you almost know the lines backwards can still delight, while *Porridge* is a show which really deserves that overused word classic. It seems you do not get writing as sharp and witty any more and one day, no doubt, somebody will write a PhD thesis trying to explain why. Meanwhile it is enough to enjoy again the wonderful Clement-La Frenais scripts as they triumph on every level, especially in marrying the jokes with a satisfying plot. Ronnie Barker's Fletcher is not the least of the pleasures and tonight's episode has the bonus of equally splendid comic acting as David Jason takes his occasional *Porridge* role of the old lag, Blanco.

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

On Channel 4 *Garden Party* is proving a livelier show than it was first time round but the BBC's old faithful is still the one to beat. Getting members of the public to air their problems, as *Garden Party* does, is admirable in theory, but can be less than gripping in practice. Television is better left to professionals, and of these *Gardeners' World* has a fine crop. There is none better than the anchorman, Alan Titchmarsh, who combines a cheery presence with solid instruction. Tonight he is demonstrating the basic techniques for growing tomatoes and offering tips for planting-up hanging baskets. With Bob Flowerdew taking a break the eco slot goes to Pippa Greenwood, reporting on a local authority scheme to recycle garden waste and sell it back to the public as compost.

The *Blue Peter* presenters (BBC1, 5.10)

See You Friday
ITV, 8.30pm

The remarks about *Porridge* were not meant as a dig at Alan Whiting's new series, which is in any case less sitcom than romantic comedy. Greg and Lucy have a holiday fling in Crete, but because they live 250 miles apart (she in London, he in Newcastle) it becomes difficult to sustain the romance back home. Whiting's scenario is peppered with embarrassments, misunderstandings and arrangements made and thwarted as the lovelorn couple try to keep the affair going. It is gentle and unassuming stuff, perhaps a shade predictable, but for a large proportion of the female population, at least, the casting of Neil Pearson as Greg will be sufficient reason for tuning in. Nor does television's Mr Heartthrob disappoint, though Joanna Roth, in her first stab at comedy, provides an engaging foil. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Book at Bedtime: The Oedipus Complex
Radio 4, 10.45pm.

No finer tribute could be paid to the late V.S. Pritchett than these readings of two of his short stories by John Moffat. Pritchett, who died in March, was a master of the genre. You had only to listen to *The Vice-Consul*, last night's *Book at Bedtime*, to recognise that fact. But, in case you missed it or, worse still, missed the point of it, you have another chance tonight to put matters right. *The Oedipus Complex* is Pritchett at his best and John Moffat at *his* best. It tells of a yarn-spinning dentist "who suggested — in a quiet way — war". He is struggling to remove a stubbornly resistant root which he treats like a sworn enemy who must be conquered. To say more would be to ruin your enjoyment.

BBC Singers: Choral Masterwork Series
Radio 3, 7.30pm.

As they say, you can't win 'em all. Little did Stanley Kubrick think, when he made *2001 — A Space Odyssey* that, by using the spectacular opening section of Richard Strauss's tone poem *Also Sprach Zarathustra* as the opening music of his film, he was introducing it to millions who didn't know it existed. The same success did not attend György Ligeti's *Lux Aeterna*, though Kubrick made good use of it in *2001*. This unearthly and vocally demanding choral work is performed in tonight's BBC Singers concert, live from London. Other items are by Debussy, Bax, Birtwistle, Maxwell Davies and — a world premiere — Tristan Murail. The conductor is Simon Joly, with John Alley and Catherine Edwards on keyboards. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley, includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Pete Tong — Essential Selection **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am *Sarah Kennedy* **7.30** *Wake Up to Wogan* **9.30** *Ken Bruce* **11.30** *Jimmy Young* **1.30** *Debbie Thrower* **3.00** *Ed Stewart* **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night, from the Hippodrome, Golders Green **9.15** Last Orders. George Cole reads Graham Swift's Booker Prize-winning novel (5/8) **9.30** Brass Showcase **10.00** Sheridan Morley **12.05am** Patrick Lunt

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am *Morning Reports* **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.20** Friday Sport. Includes commentary on the Super League game between Wigan Warriors and London Broncos **10.00** Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **6.00am** Newsday **6.30** Europa Today **7.15** The World Today **7.30** Pick of the World **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Music Review **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Performance **9.30** John Peel **10.05** Business **10.15** Neighbours **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Assignment **12.30pm** Focus on Faith **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** What's That You're Eating? **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: Alternative **4.05** Football Extra **4.15** The Streets of London **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** The World Today **6.30** News in German **6.40** Spotlight **6.45** Sport **7.30** Focus on Faith **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack: Alternative **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** People and Politics **10.45** Sport **11.30** The World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05** Outlook **12.30am** Multitrack: Alternative **1.30** From the Weeklies **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** The Streets of London **3.30** People and Politics **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Weekend **4.45** Off the Shelf **5.00** Outlook **5.45** Music Brief

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **9.00** Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata **8.00** Evening Concert. Rossini (The Silken Ladder, Overture); Mozart (Violin Concerto No 5 in A major, K219) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart *(String Quintet in C, K515)*; Szymanowski (Violin Concerto No 2, Op 61); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 19); Delius (Paris, The Song of a Great City); Verdi (Overture: Nabucco) **8.17** Building a Library: Michael Kennedy's Top Ten **8.36** Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 5)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Brahms (Alto Rhapsody); Beethoven (Six Bagatelles, Op 126; Der Kuss, Op 128); Berwald (Violin Concerto in C sharp minor)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Includes Vivaldi (Concerto RV559); Schubert (Impromptu, D946 No 3); Tobias Hume (Cease Leaden Slumber); Vasks (Voices); Dagincour (Les Tourterelles); Stravinsky (The Rake's Progress, excerpts)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Sibelius
1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert. Chris De Souza introduces a concert given in February at St George's Brandon Hill, Bristol, by the Parisii Quartet. Franck (String Quartet in D)
2.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to the choreographer Siobhan Davies (r)
3.00 Mining the Archive. In conversation with Peter Franki, Paul Guinery explores the recordings made by Hungarian-born Annie Fischer for the BBC, including sonatas by Mozart, Beethoven, Bartok and Dohnanyi
5.00 Music Machine. Verity Sharp visits Andrew Lumsden, organist and master of choristers at Lichfield Cathedral
5.15 In Tune, with Chris de Souza. Includes Schubert (Scherzo in B flat, D593 No 1); Bloch (Poems of the Sea); Liszt (Tasso)
7.30 Choral Masterworks. See Choice. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. John Alley and Catherine Edwards, keyboards, the BBC singers, conductor Simon Joly. Ligeti (Lux Aeterna); Debussy (Six Epigraphes Antiques); Tristan Murail (...Amaris et Dulcibus Aquis... first performance) **8.25** Book of the Month: Ludmilla Jordanova reflects on the continuing importance of 18th-century ideas in the light of *The Pleasure of the Imagination: English Culture in the 18th Century* by the historian John Brewer **8.45** Concert, part two. Birtwistle (Narration, a Description of the Passing of a Year); Maxwell Davies (A Holy Calendar); Bax (The Poisoned Fountain); Maxwell Davies (Westerlings)
9.35 Extravagant Strangers. Caryl Phillips talks to the novelist Romesh Gunesekera, who was born in Sri Lanka (5/5)
10.00 Hear and Now. Hilary Bracefield introduces highlights from last weekend's Sonorities festival in Belfast. Includes performances by Ensemble Corrente, Accroche Note, the pianist Rolf Hind and the viola player Maurizio Barbetti
11.30 Composers of the Week: Haydn (r)
12.30am Everything but the Crazyhouse. Russell Davies continues his biography of the saxophonist Sidney Bechet (5/6) (r)
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Amsterdam Baroque Choir and Orchestra, under Ton Koopman. Bach (Cantatas: Nos 181, 182, 183, 155 and 83) **2.45** Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, under Jukka-Pekka Saraste. With Janne Kirkkinen, piano, Monica Groop, soprano, Lars-Erik Jonsson, tenor. Kimmo Hakola (Piano Concerto); Mahler (Das Lied von der Erde) **5.00** Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** *Prayer for the Day* **6.30** Today, includes Sports News **8.40** Last Chance to See. The final part of Douglas Adams's recollections of his quest to find a Komodo Dragon
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley talks to the astronomer royal Sir Martin Rees (r)
9.45 Feedback Spoken English Special. Chris Dunkley uses letters from his postbag to assess the BBC's on-air English
10.00 News; Feasts, Fasts and Festivals. The occasional series on religious festivals explores the Greek Orthodox Easter
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Sylvia Horn
11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Food Programme. Presented by Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Rogue Herries, by Hugh Walpole. Dramatised by Eric Pringle. With Gavin Muir, Mark Bonnar and Janet Maw (3/4) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and the guests of the day
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow looks at a new exhibition at the Tate in St Ives. Plus a review of *Hamlet* at Stratford with Alex Jennings
4.45 Short Story: Babel Fable, by Iain Pattison. The story of the frantic search to find the bus driver who can save the human race! Read by Jonathan Keeble (r)
5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Nigel Wrench **5.50** *Shipping Forecast* **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Growing Spaces. Edi Stark looks at the meticulous attention to detail behind Jonathan Myles-Lea's paintings of country houses and their gardens and *The Times* gardener, Stephen Anderton, meets members of the Rothschild family in both wild and formal settings
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. With Simon Heffer, Patricia Hewitt, MP, Sir Stephen Tumim and Shaun Woodward, MP
8.50 The Front. Sara Parker presents a series about people and presence (3/4)
9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. The third anniversary of Nelson Mandela's election as President of South Africa is approaching and Amanda Hopkinson talks to photojournalists who have reported on the changes in the country since the 1950s (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Oedipus Complex. See Choice (r)
11.00 Week Ending. The comedy sketch show with Sally Grace and the team
11.25 Fourth Column. A quizzical look at the week's events presented by *Times* columnist John Diamond
11.45 The New Recruit. A lifelong estate agent teaches a newcomer a few tricks of the trade (r)
12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: Behind the Scenes at the Museum, by Kate Atkinson. Read by Patricia Hodge (5/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Are you sitting comfortably? Not for long

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Deep breaths, I told myself. Concentrate on taking deep breaths: in ... and hold ... and out again. In ... Yes, 999 (BBC1) was back and already it was clear that the sight of Michael Buerk clad — a mite self-consciously — in jeans and open-neck shirt did not represent a softening in editorial policy ... and out again.

I'd just about coped with the 12-year-old boy trapped on the bottom of his holiday villa pool for six minutes. I'd even found time to wish that the BBC had paid for a rather more flattering bikini for his godmother who, remembering a previous 999 about what to do when someone's trapped in a Jacuzzi (honestly I'm not making this up), repeatedly dived down to blow air into the boy's lungs. It worked, as secretly we knew it would, and before we knew it the actors had made way for the real people who all said how much they loved each other, we felt a vicarious warm glow and suddenly it was time for Juliet Morris in the Solway Firth.

It was, she explained, a notoriously dangerous stretch of water, known particularly, she emphasised, for its shifting sandbanks. I made a note: sandbanks. Then it was a case of what happened next. Now, to some extent we know what happens next on 999 because Buerk tells us at the beginning, in a macabre trailer. We'd already had "drowning", we hadn't yet got to "burnt alive", so it must be the odd-looking one about an upside-down fisherman which had so strangely defeated the programme's pat summary writers. We were about to discover why.

Tom was pottering back to port, filling the time productively by doing a spot of winch wire reversing. Sounds a bit technical (the key words, however are "winch" and "wire") and looked a bit dangerous. "What about those shifting sandbanks?", I thought as he stepped forward to untangle a nasty wire knot. Thud — boat hit sandbank, boat heels over, Tom stumbles and foot gets trapped in nasty wire knot. Winch is still *running*.

As a nasty-looking set of rusty rollers drew near, I began to feel faint. Tom, however, was stoic: "I thought to myself this is going to be painful." Then suddenly the winch stopped. What a relief. Tom was muttering something about safety release valves and I was thinking what splendid upside-down acting our stand-in was doing, when suddenly the calm tones of Morris interrupted with news that surely had the entire nation adopting the recovery position: "Tom's severed leg was trapped in the winch and he was still attached to it by his oilskins." Severed leg, what severed leg? Ah, that severed leg. In ... and hold ... and out again.

Thank goodness Tom still had a pen-knife, a clean towel and a couple of codeine tablets around, eh? In no time at all he was up on his good leg, hopping into the wheel-house and straight on to the mobile phone. And the moral of this story, we later learnt, is that if you're going to lose a leg, it's best to have it torn off. The arteries go into spasm and you lose less blood apparently. In ... and hold ... and out again.

To anybody who feels I'm being feeble about this, I should point out that I'd already been found wanting by the opening instalment of **Health Alert** (Channel 4). Having taken an unpleasant look at brain surgery for the BBC on *Tomorrow's World* on Wednesday, Shahnaz Pakravan crossed over to the opposition last night to consider the occasionally hazy world of laser eye surgery.

Honestly, I was quite brave during the first bit, although I'll confess to wincing when they scraped away the outer layers of the cornea with a scalpel. It was the new technique, Lasik, which got me. Known in the trade (and when it comes to laser surgery, trade is the right word) as "flap and zap". I wondered how they made the flap. Pakravan told us: "It involves shaving the eye with a device which cuts into the cornea like a miniature lawn-mower." Not really my favourite analogy of the week. I didn't enjoy the pictures that followed much, either.

The programme itself, however, was rather good, injecting a well-judged note of caution into claims that laser surgery is some sort of optical panacea. For PRK there can be problems with pain (particularly on the first day), night vision and a haze that can take months to clear. With LAZIK, there is a possibility of the flap coming off, traumatic cataracts and an outside chance of what one expert picturesquely described as "the machine chewing up the coloured part of the eye". Well, what do you expect if you stick a lawn-mower in it?

But the most persuasive argument of all came from a conference in the Scottish Borders where, of the 100 ophthalmic surgeons attending, not a single one had had laser surgery. That didn't stop the programme's two guinea pigs going ahead with the procedure and it didn't stop them being absolutely thrilled with the results. But it did ensure a long-term future for my telly glasses.

Given what had preceded it, it was perhaps not the ideal night for a director to go right back to basics with **This Life** (BBC2) in its new Thursday night slot. Cameras wobbled and edits were cut at a speed that has not been seen since episode one, series one. All very dizzy-making but all still wonderfully enjoyable. Ferdy finally got Warren's room, which seemed only right after all the good work Ramon Tikaram has put in to turn what was virtually a non-speaking part into an established regular; and the ghastly Rachel (a wonderfully convincing Natasha Little) managed to annoy Milly even more. Nobody had any terrible accidents ... this week.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (61170)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (73828)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (3295460)

9.20 Style Challenge (6746977)

9.45 Kilroy (7091625)

10.30 Can't Cook Won't Cook (18828)

11.00 News (T) (7835170)

11.05 The Great Escape (7292170)

11.35 Change That (5997624)

12.00 News (T) (8462441)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (8117847)

12.35 Good Living (9558847)

1.00 News (T) and weather (76915)

1.30 Regional News (86885460)

1.40 The Weather Show (99061847)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (40981489)

2.10 Quincy (6713151)

2.55 Through the Keyhole (6489644)

3.20 A Perfect Arrangement (6523915)

3.30 Mouse and Mole (7493084) **3.35** Playdays (8341286) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (6855880) **4.10** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (4226199) **4.35** Clarissa Explains It All (1454915) **5.00** Newsround (T) (4612847)

5.10 Blue Peter Celebration of the 3,000th edition of the programme (T) (6481373)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (647354)

6.00 News (T) and weather (977)

6.30 Regional News (557)

7.00 Weekend Watchdog The team investigates extortionately high booking fees charged by certain agencies (T) (4731)

7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (441)

8.00 Porridge Classic prison comedy with Ronnie Barker (r) (T) (1921)

8.30 A Question of Sport David Coleman asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz (T) (9286)

9.00 News (T) and weather (8538)

9.30 Ghost (1990) Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore star in this romantic fantasy about a young couple cruelly torn apart by a fatal mugging. However, victim Swayze remains on earth in spirit form and tries to find a way to warn his love that he was murdered. Enter Whoopi Goldberg, in Oscar-winning form, as the scatter-brained fake psychic more amazed than anyone to discover her powers are real. Directed by Jerry Zucker (T) (22354)

11.30 Black Rainbow (1989) Medium Rosanna Arquette has a premonition of murder during a public display of her psychic powers, and is soon being stalked by the vicious killer, who will do anything to keep his identity secret. With Jason Robards, Tom Hulce and Mark Joy. Directed by Mike Hodges (709199) **WALES: 11.30** The Gert Escape (42460) **12.00** FILM: Black Rainbow (457774) **1.40** FILM: The Bride of Frankenstein (6758229)

1.10am The Bride of Frankenstein (1935) with Boris Karloff. Baron Frankenstein sets about building a mate for his monstrous creation. Directed by James Whale (5156720)

2.25 Weather (2706836)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: One Fact, Many Facets (8561915) **6.25** From Public to Private (T) (7676731)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (3923625) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (8145977) **7.55** Young People's Specials (1235335) **8.20** Adventures of the Garden Fairies (3244606) **8.25** Tales of the Tooth Fairies (r) (6458286) **8.35** The Raccoons (r) (3336809)

9.00 The French Experience (3279422) **9.15** The French Collection (501422) **9.45** Watch (7673267) **10.00** Teletubbies (51118) **10.30** Watch Out (6856915) **10.45** Pathways of Belief (6844170) **11.00** Look and Read Special (6709625) **11.20** Belief File (5481712) **11.40** Mathsphere Special (4485083) **12.00** English File (T) (90422)

12.30 Working Lunch (27064)

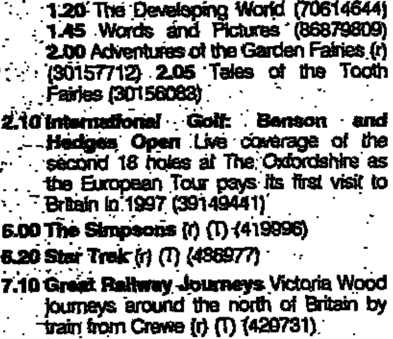
1.00 Job Bank: Pattern Cutter (92879408) **1.10** Job Bank: Hairdressing (85819828) **1.20** The Developing World (70614644) **1.45** Words and Pictures (86879809) **2.00** Adventures of the Garden Fairies (r) (30157712) **2.05** Tales of the Tooth Fairies (30158083)

2.10 International Golf: Benson and Hedges Open Live coverage of the second 18 holes at The Oxfordshire as the European Tour pays its first visit to Britain in 1997 (39149441)

6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (419996)

6.20 Star Trek (r) (T) (486977)

7.10 Great Railway Journeys Victoria Wood journeys around the north of Britain by train from Crewe (r) (T) (429731)



Peter Alliss on course (8.00pm)

8.00 A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss Peter Alliss travels the fairways of Hawaii. Last in series (T) (8793)

8.30 Gardeners' World presented by Pippa Greenwood and Alan Titchmarsh (T) (7828)

9.00 Rab C Nesbitt Sylvester McCoy rolls into town as Rab's long-lost brother, Gash Senior (r) (T) (9880)

9.30 Sunnyside Farm Ray hopes to fulfil a lifetime ambition and buy a helicopter (T) (47828)

10.00 Have I Got News for You The guests are Christine Hamilton and Maureen Lipman (91151)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (992996)

11.15 Space: Above and Beyond (960557)

12.00 This Life (r) (T) (4955045)

12.45am Close-Up on Hitchcock (6631590)

12.55 Mr and Mrs Smith (1941, b/w) with Robert Montgomery, Gene Raymond and Carole Lombard. A couple's idyllic lifestyle is turned upside down by a bureaucratic decision. Romantic comedy directed by Alfred Hitchcock (5881381)

2.25 Weather (2704478)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4855118)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (r) (T) (6754996)

9.55 Regional News (T) (3172731)

10.00 The Time, the Place (48644)

10.30 This Morning (T) (62091002)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (8468625)

12.30 News (T) and weather (9544644)

12.55 Our House (r) (9529335) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (70600441) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (r) (8984335) **2.50** Garden Calendar (T) (2864373)

3.20 News (T) (6527731)

3.25 Regional News (T) (6526002)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (6887489) **3.40** Slim Pig **3.50** Cartoon Time (7497880) **4.00** The Treacle People (T) (7795538) **4.15** Where's Wally? (r) (T) (4210538) **4.40** Crazy Cottage (T) (9612731)

5.10 A Country Practice (7107557)

5.40 News (T) and weather (813460)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (338557)

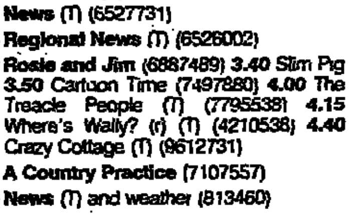
6.25 HTV Weather (677083)

6.30 The West Tonight (T) (625)

7.00 Lucky Numbers hosted by Shane Richie (T) (6199)

7.30 Coronation Street Ashley demands straight answers from Don (T) (809)

8.00 The Bill A would-be hero's intervention in an armed robbery lands Page in a hostage crisis. A second chance arises to catch the robber, but will her courage last? (T) (5847)



Joanna Roth, Neil Pearson (8.30pm)

8.30 See You Friday A new romantic comedy series about a couple who live 250 miles apart. With Neil Pearson and Joanna Roth (T) (4354)

9.00 The Grand John Bannerman is bitten by a stray dog and his family spend a sleepless night worrying whether he has contracted a fatal disease (T) (2625)

10.00 News (T) and weather (95977)

10.30 The West Tonight (376064)

10.40 Sounds of the Week: Techno First of a six-part series looking at the vibrant music scene in the West (279557)

11.15 At the Albert Smile perform at the music pub in Bristol (738809)

12.15am The Wacky Weekly World News (7122229)

12.35 Bonkers (T) (4344565)

1.35 Club Nation (T) (6235381)

2.35 Murder in High Places (1991) with Ted Levine, Adam Baldwin and Judith Hoag. The newly elected Mayor of a small Colorado town is stunned when his former wife is brutally murdered and turns for help to a visiting Chicago cop. Directed by John Byrum (254584)

4.15 Movie Club (r) (10300)

4.45 Phenomena (66191855)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (66010)

5.30 News (33107)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9529335)

2.50-3.20 Secrets from the Secret Garden (2864373)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7107557)

6.25-7.00 Central News (922354)

10.40 Film: Defending Your Life (55629422)

12.40am In Bed with MeDinner (9863045)

1.10 Bonkers (5988045)

2.10 Baywatch (6920403)

3.00 Cyber Cafe (49474768)

3.25 Helter Skelter (4927769)

4.10 Central Jobfinder '97 (9150355)

5.20 Asian Eye (8108039)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Home and Away (9529335)

1.25 Wish You Were Here? (22445267)

1.55 Blue Heelers (8992354)

2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (2864373)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7107557)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (39809)

10.30 Westcountry News (390644)

10.45 Film: The Killing Time (51015101)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9529335)

1.55 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (40956793)

2.25-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (7492977)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7107557)

6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (39809)

10.30 Meridian News and Weather (390644)

10.45 Highlander (476373)

11.40 A406 (704083)

12.10am Campus Cops (7034010)

5.00 Freescreen (66010)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9529335)

1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8992354)

2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2864373)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7107557)

6.25-7.00 Anglia News (922354)

10.30 Anglia News and Weather (390644)

10.45 Film: Class (51015101)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (54880) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (66538) **9.00 Bewitched** (97034) **9.30 Film: Those Were the Days** (4169977) **10.55 Yellow Shoes** (7295267) **11.00 Film: Pony Soldier** (78151) **12.30pm Ricki Lake** (45460) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (86574016) **1.15 Slot Syniadau Sali** (95029921) **1.30 Film: Raising the Wind** (34518199) **3.10 A Little Loving** (3661985) **3.30 Moving People** (731) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (539) **4.30 Health Alert** (422) **5.00 5 Pump** (4977) **5.30 Countdown** (642) **6.00 Newyddion** (313373) **6.05 Hemo** (316335) **6.35 Bob Yr Ddau** (684373) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (882646) **7.25 Cymru Gudd** (634641) **8.00 Olion Ddoe** (3489) **8.30 Newyddion** (2996) **9.00 To the Ends of the Earth: Bigfoot Monster Mystery** (5557) **10.00 Brookside** (26847) **10.30 Phil Kay Feels** (271915) **11.05 Eurotrash** (730248) **11.35 TFI Friday** (318170) **12.35am Robin** (9895039) **12.40 Film: The Last Wave** (256300) **2.40 Film: The Shout** (510652) **4.15 Film: A Face at the Window** (9166519)

CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (54880) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (66538) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (97034)

9.30 Those Were the Days (1934, b/w) Will Hay in his film debut. A Victorian magistrate becomes caught up in comic complications when he tries to reform his errant stepson. Also with John Mills and Angela Baddeley. Directed by Thomas Bentley (4169977)

10.55 Yellow Shoes Animation (7295267) **11.00** The Sacred Way From Athens to Eleusis (r) (65809)

12.00 Garden Party (r) (25116) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (92731) **1.30** Pat and Mike: The Quickset Hedge (86878170)

1.40 The Rains of Ranchipur (1955) with Richard Burton and Lana Turner. A drama about an affair between an Indian doctor and a man-hungry woman. Directed by Jean Negulesco (2776335)

3.00 Moving People (r) (6557) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (538) **4.30** Countdown (T) (422) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (4977) **5.30** Pet Rescue (642)

6.00 TFI Friday (20151)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (426915)

7.50 Book Choice Special: A Festival of Commonwealth Literature with the Calcutta-born Author Vikram Seth (589809)

8.00 Garden Party A visit to Pine Lodge in Cornwall (T) (3489)

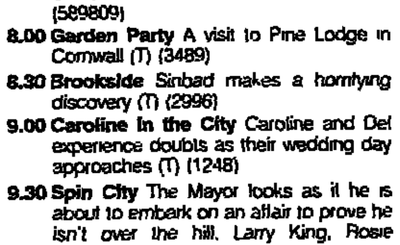
8.30 Brookside Sinbad makes a horrifying discovery (T) (2996)

9.00 Caroline in the City Caroline and Del experience doubts as their wedding day approaches (T) (1248)

9.30 Spin City The Mayor looks as if he is about to embark on an affair to prove he isn't over the hill. Larry King, Rosie O'Donnell and David Letterman make guest appearances (T) (32996)

10.00 Frasier Frasier discovers that a painting he loves is a fake (r) (T) (26847)

10.30 Phil Kay Feels ... Entertaining (4/6) (271915)



De Caunes and Messenger (11.05pm)

11.05 Eurotrash The first of a new series, with Melinda Messenger, presented by Antoine de Caunes (730248)

11.35 TFI Friday (r) (703354)

12.35 am Robin Adult animation (8936774)

12.40 The Last Wave (1977) with Richard Chamberlain. An inexperienced lawyer defends a group of Aboriginals accused of murder. Directed by Peter Weir (256300)

2.40 The Shout (1978) with Alan Bates, John Hurt and Susannah York. A horror story of a man who has developed the power to kill with a shout. Directed by Jerzy Skolimowski (244107)

4.20 - 6.00 The Face at the Window (1939, b/w). Horror movie set in 1880s Paris, with Tod Slaughter. George King directs (560958)

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (8968847)

7.30 Havakazoo (5713267)

8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8663489)

8.30 Wideworld: The Shrinking World The future of television (8655460)

9.00 Espresso (2693712) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (7270625) **10.30** Nancy Lam (r) (8642996) **11.00** Leeza (9319996) **11.50** Double Espresso (34610286) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8633248) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (4745267) **1.00** 5 News Update (49061286) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3722809) **2.00** 5's Company (7244538)

3.30 The Young Ones (1962, b/w) Teen musical starring Cliff Richard, directed by Sidney J. Furie (8939335)

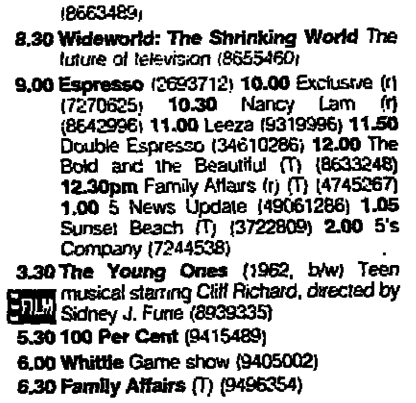
5.30 100 Per Cent (9415489)

6.00 Whittle Game show (9405002)

6.30 Family Affairs (T) (9496354)

7.00 Exclusive (6518985)

7.30 Wildlife SOS A fire threatens the animals of the wildlife sanctuary (T) (9492538)



The presenter Tim Vincent (8.00pm)

8.00 Attractions Tim Vincent visits the Aston Martin factory in Newport Pagnell (4382703)

8.30 5 News (7263278)

9.00 Trade Off (1995) with Theresa Russell and Adam Baldwin. A thriller about a man who is drawn into a passionate affair while on a business trip to Miami (90565441)

10.50 Exclusive Extra (4711489)

11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (5068064)

11.40 Club Class (5479373)

12.10am News and sport (6745213)

12.15 The Myth of the Male Orgasm (1993) with Bruce Dinsmore. A psychology professor, aged 30 and single, volunteers as a subject in an experiment conducted by a feminist group. Directed by John Hamilton (7990213)

2.00 Red River (1988) with James Arness and Bruce Boxleitner. A western drama about a 1,000-mile cattle drive. Directed by Richard Michaels (7136584)

3.35 Appointment in Honduras (1953) with Glenn Ford and Ann Sheridan. A thriller about a man hired to deliver a large sum of money to a deposed president hiding in the Honduran jungle. Directed by Jacques Tourneur (76338328)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4237565)

5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (2585749)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (722288) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (31441) **10.00** Another World (23847) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (34593) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (86731) **1.00pm** Geraldo (62151) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (68151) **3.00** Jenny Jones (79977) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (81712) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5248) **6.00** Real TV (1538) **6.30** Married — with Children (5118) **7.00** The Simpsons (6977) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4002) **8.00** JAG (15444) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (21828) **10.00** High Incident (24915) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (91248) **12.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (78294) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (35045) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9963861)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (3445354) **7.30** Superboy (3232986) **8.00** Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (7454354) **9.00** Pacific Drive (7484118) **10.00** Tales from the Crypt (2569151) **10.30** Tales from the Crypt (2565199) **11.00** Late Show (4397441) **12.00** Hit Mix (4481542)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Jokers (1966) (82557) **8.00** Story Book (1994) (93845485) **9.40** A Feast at Midnight (1994) (51790441) **11.30** Little Buddha (1993) (28606) **1.30pm** The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come (1961) (68267) **3.30** Story Book (1994) (27335) **5.00** A Feast at Midnight (1994) (53915) **7.00** D2: The Mighty Ducks (1995) (13489) **9.00** Sahara (1995) (76580644) **10.30** Angels and Insects (1995) (64843002) **12.50am** The Bofors Gun (1968) (409045) **2.40** An Unmarried Woman (1978) (18232382)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Youth Runs Wild (1944) (8858189) **7.10** Zoo Robbery (1973) (8040847) **8.20** Inhumanoids: The Movie [illegible] Touch (1941) (78354) **12.00** Mr North (1988) (71998) **2.00pm** Dark Waters (1944) (13809) **4.00** Transformers: The Movie (1986) (1422) **6.00** Prehysteria! II (1994) (49460) **7.30** UK Top 10 (7712) **8.00** When a Man Loves a Woman (1994) (38118) **10.00** Black Scorpion (1995) (109880) **11.40** Forbidden Choices (1994) (329977) **1.20am** Jefferson in Paris (1995) (81198887) **3.40** Bedlam (1946) (5877836) **5.00** Willy Fog: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1985) (32213)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00am They All Laughed (1981) (2171248) **8.00** Short Circuit II (1988) (2176793) **10.00** Hard to Kill (1990) (5121606) **11.40** Zardoz (1974) (5424286) **1.30pm** Satisfaction (1988) (1882318) **3.05-5.00** Call Me Madam (1953) (4091590)

TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (37613267) **9.00** Coma (1978) (37616354) **11.00** The Thin Man Goes Home (1944) (56943354) **12.50am** The Great Lie (1941) (88150774) **2.45-5.00** Gaslight (1940) (30444652)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (53002) **7.30** Wrestling: Superstars (40828) **8.30** Racing News (40064) **9.00** Netbusters (64644) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (77806) **10.00** Trans World Sport (38793) **11.00** Formula Three Racing (58557) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (44880) **12.30pm** Netbusters (71422) **1.00** Rugby Club Special (34489) **3.00** Trans World Sport (40489) **4.00** Formula Three Racing (29996) **5.00** World Sport Special (4015) **5.30** Netbusters (9199) **6.00** Sports Centre (89441) **7.00** Live Super League (125793) **9.30** Sports Centre (15335) **10.30** Hold the Back Page (26151) **11.30** Super League (81460) **1.30** Wrestling: Raw (48381) **3.30-4.30** Sports Centre (68497)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm End Zone: WLAF Review (1910880) **9.00** Watersports World (1930644) **10.00** Wrestling: Raw (5249441) **12.00-1.00am** End Zone: WLAF Review (3625855)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Australian Athletics (15338977) **12.30pm** Snowboard Show (95249083) **1.00** Football League Review (50850977) **2.30** Ten Pin Bowling (75882441) **4.30** US [illegible] Open Surfing (39193538) **5.30** Skiff Sailing (23873083) **8.00** The Winning Cup Live Horse Racing (37814996) **8.00** Ten Pin Bowling (37819441) **10.00** NHL Ice Hockey Powerweek (37805248) **11.00** Australian Athletics (69889644) **11.30-12.00** Skiff Sailing (62842248)

EUROSPORT

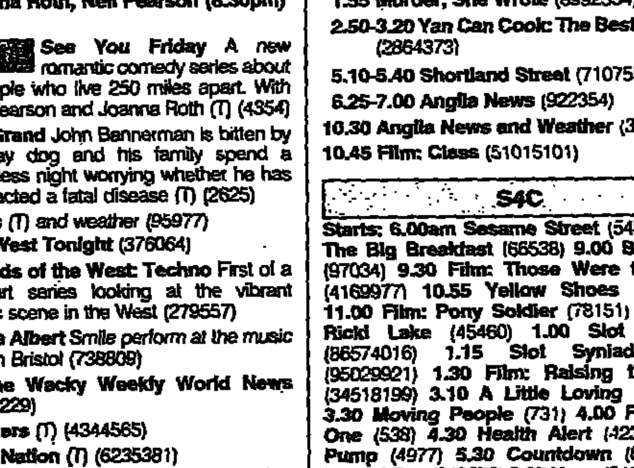
7.30am Ice Hockey (34977) **8.00** Sailing (76489) **8.30** Motors (38354) **9.30** Motorcycling (95002) **10.00** Modern Pentathlon (63489) **11.00** Ice Hockey (23712) **11.30** Motorsports (32002) **12.30pm** Football (44847) **2.00** Live Ice Hockey (416828) **4.30** Live Tennis (60489) **6.00** Live Ice Hockey (195441) **8.30** Tractor Pulling (31462) **9.30** Tennis (86354) **10.00** Darts (57267) **11.00** Ice Hockey (15793) **11.30-12.30** Boxing (52118)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (8343441) **7.35** Neighbours (6744084) **8.00** Crossroads (8454977) **8.25** EastEnders (4922002) **9.00** The Bill (7331809) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (4561441) **10.00** Robin's Nest (4418712) **10.30** The Sullivans (7320793) **11.00** Casualty (11127593) **12.05pm** Crossroads (86082557) **12.30** Neighbours (4572557) **1.00** EastEnders (8139489) **1.35** The Two Ronnies (2646880) **2.30** Executive Stress (3485731) **3.00** Goldmaster (4861606) **3.30** The Bill (3454248) **4.00** Boon (3978847) **5.00** Generation Game (83580356) **6.05** EastEnders (6979034) **6.40** Sykes (5260828) **7.20** Russ Abbot (5245538) **7.50** Rising Damp (7721286) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (6948489) **9.00** The Bill (3967731) **9.30** The Chief (47236441) **10.35** FILM: Raw Deal (37184847) **12.30am** FILM: Call Him Mr Shatter (9318478) **2.15** Shopping at Night (82989671)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (4684118) **7.00** Classic Coronation Street (8593151) **7.30** Families (6512286) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (1825460) **9.00** The Professionals (7541489) **10.00** Richard and Judy Exclusive (8589083) **10.30** Doctor on the Go (8927915) **11.00** Within These Walls (6598606) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (9918267) **12.30pm** Families (1671037) **1.00** Albion Market (6592422) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (1909638) **2.00** First Among Equals (8560712) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (9757354) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise (9776489) **5.00** The Professionals (3008199) **6.00** Families (2561847) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (2552199) **7.00** Surprise, Surprise (6823847) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (6809267) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (9765372) **9.30** The Comedians (4959803) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (6822118)



Cindy Morgan and Bruce Boxleitner (Disney Channel, 7.30pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (6297625) **6.25** Quack Attack (6209460) **6.50** Bonkers (5803170) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (2198278) **7.40** Aladdin (4381731) **8.05** Quack Pack (2571286) **8.30** Goof Troop (66624) **9.00** The Care Bears (4553809) **9.25** Pooh Corner (4565644) **9.50** Muppet Babies (3453880) **10.15** Groundling Marsh (1326460) **10.40** Sing Me a Story (1369828) **11.05** Mouse and Mole (2768538) **11.10** Big Garage (4378847) **11.25** Play Along (3826199) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (8537248) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (7814880) **12.30** Boy Meets World (9077828) **1.05** Timon and Pumbaa (68133083) **1.15** Mouse Tracks (785557) **1.45** Aladdin (60353170) **2.10** Goof Troop (24438118) **2.35** Bonkers (5791426) **3.00** Quack Attack (9713996) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (2675538) **3.35** The Little Mermaid (8656286) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (5421538) **4.10** Goof Troop (6017731) **4.30** Every Day's a Choosday (8489) **5.00** Aladdin (7033606) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (6494480) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (546644) **6.00** Gargoyles (9354) **6.30** The Wonder Years (6426) **7.00** The Wayne Manifesto (4793) **7.30** FILM: Tron (31809) **9.00-10.00** Flipper (85084)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (9504625) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (9616731) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (4368793) **7.30** Alien Rangers (4307828) **8.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (2565335) **8.30** Crocadoo (2564606) **9.00** Bimble's Island (3300538) **9.20** The Magic Box (4900793) **9.45** Dudley the Dragon (1236199) **10.05** Bimble's Island (4152460) **10.25** The Magic Box (7870915) **11.00** Jin Jin and the Panda Control (6730064) **11.30** Pinocchio (6731793) **12.00** Inspector Gadget (2568422) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (84215286) **12.50** Alien Rangers (84295422) **1.10** Big Bad Beetleborgs (32742151) **1.30** Eek! Stravaganza (4312538) **2.00** Life with Louie (3441538) **2.30** Crocadoo (3244731) **3.00** Gadget Boy (3453373) **3.30** Eek! Stravaganza (3223248) **4.00** Life with Louie (3235083) **4.30** Alien Rangers (3231267) **5.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (3465118) **5.30** Spiderman (3255847) **6.00** X Men (3245460) **6.30-7.00** Goosebumps (3236712)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (90644) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (54915) **8.00** Batman (10847) **8.30** Art Attack (19118) **9.00** Flash Gordon (93170) **9.30** Bobby's World (39460) **10.00** Creepy Crawlers (18064) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (99354) **11.00** Danger Mouse (74460) **11.30** Gravedale High (82489) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (80606) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (17248) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (57441) **1.30** The New Adventures of Black Beauty (49847) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (6151) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (1199) **3.00** Art Attack (5286) **3.30** Flash Gordon (6644) **4.00** Batman (5151) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (1335)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula (75809) **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life (20286) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (51644) **7.30** Rugrats (30151) **8.00** Doug (49335) **8.30** Arthur (48606) **9.00** CBBC (84557) **10.00** Wimzie's House (11538) **10.30** Babar (51170) **11.00** Magic School Bus (36386) **11.30** Mr Men/King Rollo/Barney/(37915) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (42422) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (79064) **1.00** CBBC (98737) **2.00** Dr Seuss (8977) **2.30** Kissyfur (6625) **3.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (3192) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (1170) **4.00** Jumanji (7977) **4.30** Rugrats (6489) **5.00** Sister Sister (2557) **5.30** Moesha (9511) **6.00** Press Gang (7354) **6.30-7.00** Doug (8606)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (4579460) **1.00pm** Madison (8352644) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (4568606) **2.00** Hangtime (4867267) **2.30** California Dreams (3467199) **3.00** Byker Grove (4879002) **3.30** No Naked Flames (3482644) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (3461151) **4.30** Hangtime (3467335) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4881847) **5.30** California Dreams (3481315) **6.00** Byker Grove (3488828) **6.30** Madison (3462880) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (8659731)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (4870731) [illegible] Monsters (3969199) **9.30** Twisted (4587489) **10.00** Tour of Duty (8658002) **11.00 FILM: Cruel Passion** (2746118) **1.00am** Starsky and Hutch (4240132) **2.00** Tour of Duty (7498687) **3.00 FILM: Cruel Passion** (3733958) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (8809590)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne (2793) **7.30** Roseanne (7118) **8.00** Entertainment UK (1441) **8.30** Almost Perfect (7248) **9.00** Cheers (16422) **9.30** Cybill (99828) **10.00** Frasier (43151) **10.30** Monty Python (69199) **11.00** Movie Club (28267) **11.30** Nightstand (25064) **12.30am** Sledgehammer (91671) **1.00** Cheers (37687) **1.30** Cybill (70636) **2.00** Entertainment UK (85233) **2.30** Movie Club (91958) **3.00** Frasier (44923) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (35710)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (9926107) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (5848497) **2.00** Friday the 13th (6981720) **3.00-4.00** Dark Shadows (9839871)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7322151) **9.30** Gardener's Diary (4589083) **10.00** Screaming Reels (4416354) **10.30** Doing it Up (7328335) **11.00** The Painted House (3952809) **11.30** This Old House (3953538) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (7342915) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (4570199) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8365118) **1.30** Home Again (4562170) **2.00** Hometime (4863441) **2.30** Furniture to Go (3483373) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (4859248) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (3495118)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm High Five (3474625) **4.30** Driving Passions (3470809) **5.00** Terra X (4854793) **5.30** Justice Files (3494489) **6.00** Wild at Heart (3484002) **6.30** The Global Family (3475354) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4874557) **7.30** Disaster (3471538) **8.00** Jurassica 2 (8648625) **9.00** Bounty Hunters (8658489) **10.00** Justice Files (9638248) **11.00** Classic Wheels (8342267) **12.00** After Desert Storm (8803316) **1.00** Disaster (1407854) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000 (2626300)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (5236877) **5.00** Memories of 1975 (3001606) **6.00** The Most Decorated (3606877) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Bing Crosby (1934460)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05pm Cross Wits (9031002) **5.50** Family Fortunes (523335) **6.20** Challenge TV's Family Days Out (640064) **6.30** Catchphrase (936373) **7.05** Winner Takes All (805199) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (905101) **8.20** All Clued Up (928809) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (790847) **9.25** Challenge TV's InnQuizition (144644) **9.35** Sale of the Century (652248) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (127335) **11.20** Studs (992151) **12.00** Winner Takes All (52294) **12.30pm** Hart to Hart (14381) **1.30** Moonlighting (46126) **2.30** Jake and the Kid (88328) **3.30** My Two Dads (40294) **4.00** The Fall Guy (69519)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (30800199) **9.05** Gladrags and Glamour (7055489) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (7330083) **10.05** Jerry Springer (3295070) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (7508002) **11.50** The New Mr and Mrs Show (9722712) **12.25pm** Why Me? (19822083) **12.55** Tempest (2494688) **1.40** Rolonda (6003847) **2.30** The Agony Experience (7109809) **3.00** Live at Three (92124557) **4.05** Jerry Springer (4679083) **5.05** Lingo (4964064) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (7103625) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (5068606) **6.35** The Heat Is On (9745248) **7.05** Hearts Afire (4371199) **7.35** Infatuation UK (6963267) **8.05** Rolonda (6704460) **9.00 FILM: Nightmare at Bitter Creek** (2173606) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Zone

ZEE TV

7.00am Jeegran **7.30** Zabaan Sambhal Ke **8.00** Gaane Anjaane **8.30** Positive Health Show **9.00** Punjabi Folk **9.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **10.00** Chalo Cinema **10.30** Tumhare Sahare **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratein **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00 FILM: Enn Magan** **4.00** ZEE Zone **4.05** Kamal Kombination **4.35** Saanp Seedi **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Young Buzz **6.00** Baaji Ke Pg **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Shu Chale Che? **7.30** Aahat **8.00** News **8.35** Parampara **9.05-12.00 FILM: Hulchal**

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FRIDAY MAY 9 1997

Defender relinquishes dual role

Pearce hands Forest reins over to Bassett

By Russell Kempson

STUART PEARCE'S flirtation with football management will end on Sunday, when Nottingham Forest bid farewell to the FA Carling Premiership after their game against Newcastle United at St James' Park. Pearce, the England and Forest defender, announced yesterday that he is to relinquish his dual role as player and caretaker manager. He will be replaced by Dave Bassett, the club's general manager.

The move, though no surprise, at least concludes Forest's disappointing campaign on a positive note, with the respective jobs at the City Ground now clearly defined. Pearce will play next season, in the Nationwide League first division, and Bassett will manage. The confusion about who was doing what, which had plagued Forest since Bassett's arrival in February, has been resolved.

"I'm stepping down from managing and reverting to just being a player," Pearce, 35, said yesterday. "I feel as though some rebuilding needs doing at the club and, with the constraints on my time from international commitments, I wouldn't really be able to get out and about scouting for players.

"It's probably best if I step down, because to do the job the way I'd like to do it, I'd prefer to go out and look at players myself. If I'm not able to do that, I'm not really prepared to sit back and take someone else's word for it."

Pearce denied reports that there had been tension between him and Bassett, who was appointed after the lengthy takeover of the club had been completed. "I think people tried to drive a wedge between us," he said, "but I've got no problem working with Dave."

Pearce: commitments

Bassett, 52, accepted the promotion with mixed feelings. Crystal Palace, his former club, will play in the Premiership next season if they successfully negotiate the first division play-offs. They play Wolverhampton Wanderers in the first leg of their semi-final at Selhurst Park tomorrow.

"Stuart remains in charge on Sunday and I'll take over on Monday," Bassett said. "We've been relegated, we can't escape that, and the objective now is to get back at the first attempt. There was always the chance if Stuart stood down, I'd be back at the sharp end. I would have preferred to have been taking charge of the club while we were still in the Premiership, but we'll just have to get back the hard way, by winning promotion next year."

Forest's season had begun promisingly, with a 3-0 victory away to Coventry City, but, with the takeover rumbling along in the background — casting doubt over the future of the club and restricting Frank Clark, then the manager, in his purchasing power — the slide became unstoppable. They did not win any of their next 16 league fixtures and had become rooted to the foot of the Premiership by mid-November. Six days before Christmas, Clark could take no more. He resigned, later to re-emerge at Manchester City.

Pearce assumed control, albeit reluctantly, and had an immediate effect. He was successful in his first game in charge, a 2-1 home victory against Arsenal, and Forest won three of their next five league matches, rising to seventeenth place. Since then, though, there has been little to enthuse about.

Forest have won only once in 14 outings — they also made an ignominious FA Cup fifth-round exit against Chesterfield — and relegation was confirmed last weekend. Pearce gradually accepted the inevitable: he was not yet ready to finish playing, he was not yet ready for management.

"The job probably came a couple of years too early," he said, "but, at the time, the club was in a bit of a jam. I've no regrets, though. I've always made decisions honestly and I've always stuck by them. Perhaps other people in my position, thinking that the club would probably go down in five months' time, might not have taken it on. I'm not that way inclined."

Bassett paid tribute to his predecessor and remains optimistic. "Stuart has shown he's not frightened to make decisions," he said. "He was there when the club needed him and will still be there when I need him. Life is full of challenges and, hopefully, this is the start of a new era at Forest. I'm not interested in what's gone before. From Monday, it's a clean slate."

Bonds walks into the lions' den at Millwall

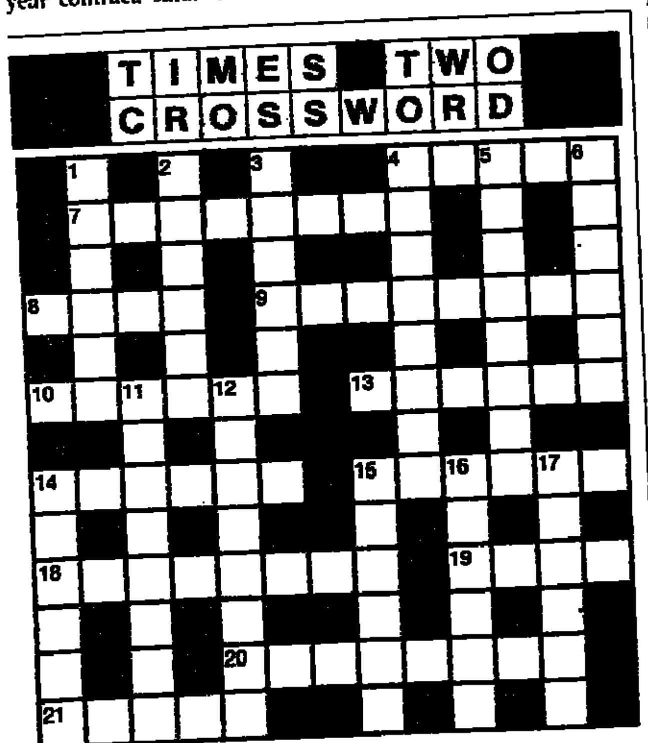
MILLWALL appointed their third manager in as many months yesterday when Billy Bonds joined the Nationwide League second division club (Russell Kempson writes). He replaced John Docherty, who resigned last week.

Bonds, 50, the former West Ham United manager, faces an unenviable task. Millwall faded after a promising start to the season, eventually finishing in thirteenth place, and the club is still being run by administrators.

"I know it's going to be a real challenge, we'll need maximum effort from everybody to turn things around." Bonds, who has signed a two-year contract, said. "At least the club is now back on a level financial footing, even if I'm not going to have much money to spend.

"It means rolling up our sleeves and working hard for the club, but then Millwall supporters have been brought up on that type of thing. It is what they would expect. I've always lived in south London, even when I was playing for West Ham, so this is where my roots are."

Bonds left West Ham, where he had played and coached for more than 20 years, on the eve of the 1994-95 season. He has since coached at several clubs, including Queens Park Rangers, under Ray Wilkins, and Reading.



No 1089

ACROSS
- 4 Winged boy with bow (5)
- 7 Wide view (8)
- 8 Steering apparatus (4)
- 9 Capt. Nemo's sub; a mollusc (8)
- 10 Showy; impudent; blaring (6)
- 13 Illegible writing (6)
- 14 Offend (6)
- 15 Calculate (6)
- 18 Shakespeare's fat knight (8)
- 19 Prevalent (4)
- 20 Blend together (8)
- 21 Hostile investment (5)

DOWN
- 1 Turn up; seem (6)
- 2 Ill-feeling (6)
- 3 Island group inc. Hoy (6)
- 4 Bib. text sung in church (8)
- 5 Take advantage of one's status (4,4)
- 6 Girl *(poet.)* (6)
- 11 Unqualified; utter (8)
- 12 Sun's turning point (8)
- 14 Deduces (6)
- 15 Disturb calm, order of (6)
- 16 Cherry-red (6)
- 17 Discordant, out of tune (3-3)

The solution to 1088 will be published Wednesday, May 14

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Smith, right, celebrates Rangers' title triumph with Gascoigne, who may find he has several new team-mates next season. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Smith prepares to recreate Rangers

By Kevin McCarra

ON WEDNESDAY night, Walter Smith leapt on top of a huddle of Rangers players, hugging the men who, with their 1-0 victory over Dundee United at Tannadice, had secured a ninth successive Scottish League premier division championship. Now, however, the manager will tear his team apart. The dismantling of the side almost feels like a betrayal to him, but it is, in fact, a duty.

The club's progress towards a title that matches the record set by Jock Stein's Celtic, between 1966 and 1974, was bedevilled by injuries and Smith admits that the ailments had been virtually inevitable in a squad that has grown elderly. Richard Gough, the captain, now leaves to join Kansas City Wizards in the United States and others will make less colourful departures.

Smith enjoyed the triumph, but his celebrations must be truncated. "In 1991," he said, "change was forced upon us by the introduction of the three foreigners rule in European matches. We sold eight players and brought in six then. I don't know if we'll be acting on that scale again, but it could be that we will. It's difficult to talk about it because these players have been terrific for me and I have the highest regard for their determination to keep on winning. I'm disappointed that I have to make decisions that will end an era for a successful team."

Sentimentality, though, will be no obstacle and two players — Jonas Thern, of AS Roma, and Tony Vidmar, of NAC Breda — have already agreed to join Rangers. Other negotiations are in process and it is probable that another four signings will be made over the next few weeks. Yesterday, it was hard to tell whether Smith was looking back over a triumph or simply previewing the new season.

Rangers are required to enter the European Cup at the pre-qualifying stage and play their first match on July 23. A month before that, the squad is scheduled to return to training. Uefa, European football's ruling body, has devised a format that forces all clubs from the smaller nations into early action. "We would more or less have to win the European Cup to be exempt from the pre-qualifying," Smith said.

Respectability in the competition is the immediate goal. "We cannot run away from the fact that Rangers have not been good enough," Smith said. "In six years, we have qualified for the Champions' League group stage three times, but we have not acquitted ourselves well there. I do believe, though, that we will be able to compete on a better and more regular basis now that the three foreigner limitation has been abolished."

Smith has reconciled himself to the fact that Scots are likely to make up only a minority of his side in future. Already, Rangers have learned to depend on the imports and the only goal against Dundee United was scored by Brian Laudrup, the Dane. The fine display of Paul Gascoigne, however, demonstrated that outsiders can soon acquaint themselves with the passion of Rangers.

Having overcome a thigh strain with unexpected speed, there is even a chance that Gascoigne will now achieve full fitness in time for England's World Cup qualifying match with Poland on May 31. Until Wednesday, the midfield player had not started a match since January 25 and Rangers will be content if football occupies his energies for a few weeks more.

Gascoigne can present a club with difficulties, but it has been Smith's art to recruit players from all over the world and instil in them a respect for Rangers' stature and a desire to add to its glories.

O'Neill's joy, page 40
Vase promise, page 40

Clubs reject merger proposal

By Russell Kempson

AFTER six hours of debate yesterday, much of it heated, the Football League threw out recommendations to radically restructure its format. Representatives of the 72 clubs decided that the main thrust of the proposals that the Nationwide League third division should merge with the Vauxhall Conference would not work.

The report, commissioned for about £100,000, was presented by Deloitte & Touche, the management consultancy firm, on Tuesday. However, the initial enthusiasm of David Sheepshanks, the chairman of the League and Ipswich Town, was not shared by his colleagues.

"The ideas are no more than half-cocked," David Guterman, the Chester City chairman, said. "The bottom line is that these proposals would have meant the third division sides joining the Vauxhall Conference, not the Conference joining the League.

"As far as I am concerned, this is a report that was commissioned just to do the first division's dirty work. These are ridiculous proposals, drawn up at great cost, and now rightly thrown out at the first attempt."

Other recommendations in the report received a more favourable response. It is now likely that the League will switch its headquarters from Lytham St Anne's in Lancashire to London and it will also appoint a chief executive, independent chairman and commercial director.

"I'm very pleased that four-fifths of the report has received widespread agreement," Sheepshanks said.

"Everyone wants to see the League more commercially driven, which will be for the benefit of all." The accepted proposals will be ratified at the League's annual meeting next month.

Authorities smell something fishy

Brian Clarke reports on a record catch that may have come from warmer climes

THE British Record Fish Committee (BRFC) has refused to accept a 99lb Wels catfish taken from an Essex pond in November as a record for the species unless proof can be provided that the pond was stocked legally.

The capture of the fish caused a sensation when it was reported by Steve Bond from a two-acre lake at Oak Lodge, Rayleigh, near Southend. Since catfish were introduced to Great Britain more than 100 years ago, the fish have spread to several lakes in the home counties and have established cult status with some anglers. However, nothing remotely the size of Bond's fish had been taken.

Indeed, the fish, 7ft long, was big beyond all comprehension — 38lb bigger than the existing catfish record, half as heavy again as the ancient salmon record, 44lb heavier than the biggest carp ever caught in Britain, twice the size of the biggest pike.

Bond lodged a claim for the record immediately, a fact that surprised nobody given that he owned the lake. The capture of a record on any water increases the price that an owner can demand of anglers wishing to fish it.

However, a statement now issued by the BRFC says that, as there is no record of catfish being previously caught at Oak Lodge, the committee requires production of "consent certificates under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981".

These are the acts that regulate the movement of fish between inland waters and the introduction to them of non-native species. The statement says that Bond's claim cannot be considered further without such certificates and that Bond has been informed of this.

At the time of the capture, Bond said that a number of catfish had been introduced to the lake by the previous owners in the mid-1970s and that the lake had scarcely been fished since. He denied rumours that the "record" fish had been smuggled in. "Nothing like that has ever been put in," he said. "It is all just jealousy."

A spokesman for the Environment Agency (EA), however, confirmed yesterday that Dr Tony Owen, the head of fisheries, had taken the unusual step of writing to the BRFC. Owen's letter said: "It is extremely unlikely that the 99lb Wels catfish caught by Mr Steve Bond at his Essex fishery grew to such a size at that fishery or, indeed, anywhere else in the United Kingdom. The temperature of UK waters, and therefore the amount of available food, is not high enough to allow fish to grow to such a size. The nearest area where a Wels catfish would be likely to grow to 99lb is southern Europe."

An EA spokesman expressed frustration with the state of the law. "Exotic fish can carry all sorts of diseases," he said. "We are aware of many more incidents of them being illegally introduced than we have evidence to prosecute. We presently need to catch people red-handed, actually putting them in, before we can act."

What was needed, he said, were powers to net out any exotic fish stocked without authority. If such powers existed, they would remove all incentive to publicise the presence of the fish — and publicity on angling waters was usually the name of the game.